Mid-Atlantic Thoroughbred

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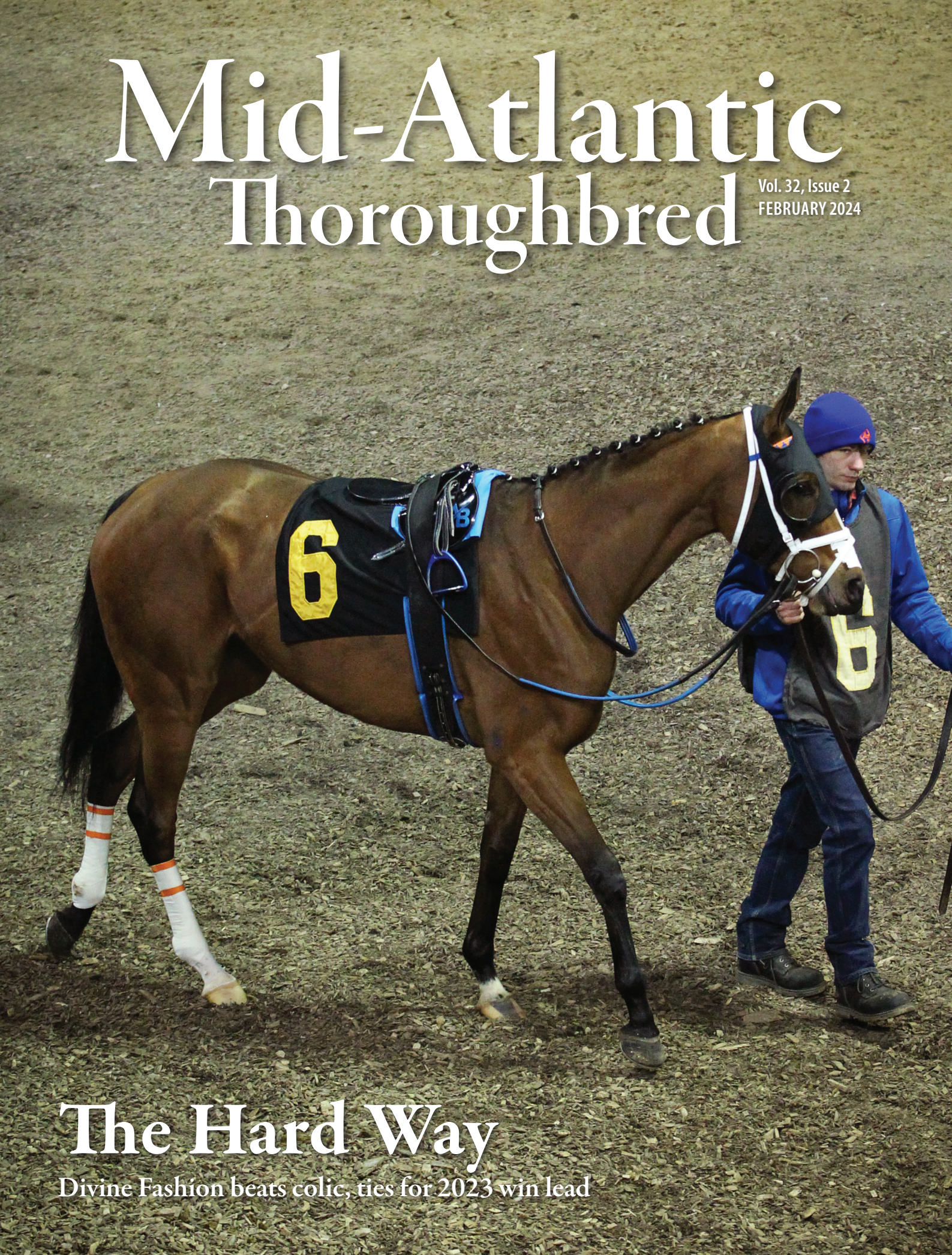

The Hard Way

Divine Fashion beats colic, ties for 2023 win lead

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Divining Rod

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$2,000 LFSN

Mosler

War Front–Gold Vault, by Arch

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$3,000 LFSN

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Virginia Breeders Fund

Mid-Atlantic Thoroughbred

— Set List —

Region makes national impact among 2023 winners

Maryland-bred Divine Fashion survived a colic battle and won 10 races – the last on Dec. 30 – to tie for the national lead. She wasn't the only Mid-Atlantic influence on the leaderboard. By Joe Clancy. Page 28

Another new day for Maryland

Backed by construction funds from state bonds, a plan called Pimlico Plus takes shape for the future of Maryland racing complete with a rebuilt track, a new training center and a new operational model. Now, the work begins. By Joe Clancy. Page 38

Trackside: Laurel Park

Veteran runners Greeley and Ben and Double Crown post stakes victories to close 2023 season in style. By John Piassek. Page 46

Trackside: Parx Racing

Pennsylvania-bred filly Aoife's Magic runs record to 4-for-4 as a juvenile, while pointing toward lofty goals in 2024, to spark memories of her sire Smarty Jones. By John Piassek. Page 54

Loose Rein: Wonder Horse

A century ago, a mind-reading horse was born in Virginia. Lady Wonder caused a stir then, and the tale still resonates. By Vinnie Perrone. Page 60

On our cover: Divine Fashion, who won 10 races in 2023 to tie for the national lead, gets ready for her 2024 debut – a win, naturally – at Charles Town in January. *Photo by Katherine Turnbull / Coady Photography.*

— Entries —

Post Time 6

The Starting Gate 8

Next Chapters 24
Carrickboy (Ire)

From the Editor 26

— The Paddock —

Maryland newsletter 69

New Jersey newsletter 75

North Carolina newsletter 79

Pennsylvania newsletter 81

South Carolina newsletter 85

Virginia newsletter 87

West Virginia newsletter 89

Steeplechase newsletter 91

— Evening Stables —

In Memoriam 66

Classifieds 93

Looking Back 94

Past Time 96

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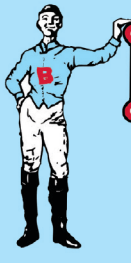

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Mid-Atlantic Thoroughbred

Volume 32, Issue 2

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Post Time

SNOW PATROL. Broodmares at Maryland's Country Life Farm buttoned up, and looked stylish in coordinating colors, against some January weather.

Ellen B. Pons

Say It Again

"I thought it was a helmet."
Trainer Ronnie Cartwright, out of character, after wearing the trophy for Honorable Man's win in the 2005 Charles H. Hadry Stakes; Cartwright died in November; see Maryland Horse *for a remembrance.*

"She won a few races."
Trainer Anthony Farrior, downplaying Divine Fashion's 10-win season

"It's one of those days where you do the best you can with the stalls, make sure everyone has hay and get back outside because you just have to plow."
Breeder Susan Wantz, on a snow day at the farm

Seven regional-breds hit six figures at Keeneland January

Five-year-old mare Heartyconstitution, a five-time winner bred in Pennsylvania by Roberta Schneider, sold for $325,000 to top all regional-breds at Keeneland's January sale. The racing/broodmare prospect won five of her 11 starts, including last year's Lyphard Stakes at Presque Isle Downs, while earning $328,580. Scott and Evan Dilworth bought the daughter of Constitution, a half-sister to Grade 3 winner Chateau.

Maryland-bred broodmare prospect Street Lute sold for $200,000 to Virginia breeder Larry Johnson. Street Lute won 10 races for Lucky 7 Stable and trainer Jerry Robb, topped by eight stakes while earning $671,530. Divine Huntress, another Maryland-bred broodmare prospect, went for $170,000 to Clearsky Farms.

Pennsylvania-bred Heartyconstitution was the regional sales topper at $325,000.

Bred by Tom and Chris Bowman, Rick Buckley and Joshua Dreiband, the daughter of Divining Rod won three races including the 2022 Miss Disco Stakes and finished second in the 2022 Acorn-G1.

Morgan's Ford Farm was the buyer of a $185,000 Virginia-bred Quality Road yearling out of Street Interest. The filly is a half-sister to stakes winner Bella Aurora.

Go Figure

9 Wins in the final 11 starts of 2023 for trainer Lacey Gaudet, all at Laurel Park. She won two races each Dec. 17, 23 and 29 and tripled Dec. 31. The success was part of a 13-win December for the trainer, who finished with 34 on the year.

2,431 Dollars shy of $6 million Maryland stallion Great Notion came in 2023 progeny earnings. The Mid-Atlantic's leader for two consecutive years also paced the region's stallions by winners (77), stakes winners (eight) and stakes horses (16). Coastal Mission's $448,205 led the way. No Maryland sire has topped $6 million since Not For Love in 2009.

1 Win separating Penn National's two leading trainers in 2023. Tim Kreiser won 57 races at the track to claim his 10th consecutive championship by a single win over Brandon Kulp. Each trainer sent out 245 starters. On closing night, Dec. 29, Kulp posted a win and two seconds (each by a neck) including the final race of the year.

1 Win at Timonium for Maryland's leading trainer of 2023 Brittany Russell (see Milestones) to give her 119 in-state wins on the year.

Better Your Odds with a Pin Oak Lane Grade 1 Stallion

Maclean's Music–Quick Temper, by A.P. Indy

Hard Spun–Moyne Abbey, by Charismatic

CLOUD COMPUTING

Top son of Maclean's Music
Grade 1 Preakness winner

Leading 2023 Second-crop sire in Mid-Atlantic **by earnings** ($2,771,933), **winners** (53), **black-type winners** (3), **black-type runners** (8). FOUR black-type winners in two crops to run, 12 black-type earners total.

$3,500 LFSN; $3,000 for 2 mares; $2,500 for 3 or more mares to any Pin Oak Lane stallion. Registered Pennsylvania stallion

WICKED STRONG

Grade 1 winner of $1.99 Million
HARD SPUN's best son at stud

$13.5 million in lifetime progeny earnings; 39 $100,000+ earners. Sire of **21 black-type horses** including G2 winner **BROOKLYN STRONG** ($309,198), G2 **WICKED CRANE,** G3 **WICKED RUNNER** (champion at 2 & 3 in Puerto Rico), etc.

$3,500 LFSN; $3,000 for 2 mares; $2,500 for 3 or more mares to any Pin Oak Lane stallion. Registered Pennsylvania stallion

Speightstown–Green Room, by Theatrical (Ire)

LORD SHANAKILL

Grade 1 winner of $908,475
By sires of sires SPEIGHTSTOWN

Sire of 15 stakes horses, including G1 winner **MY DREAM BOAT** ($1,002,496). A precocious sprint turf specialist racing in England and France, winning from 6 fur. to 1 mile with graded wins at 2, 3 and 4.

$2,500 LFSN; $2,000 for 2 mares; $1,500 for 3 or more mares to any Pin Oak Lane stallion. Registered Pennsylvania stallion

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Milestones

Scheduled:

115 live racing dates at Penn National for 2024, a decrease of 20 from 2023. The meet will be divided into three periods – Jan. 10-March 22; May 2-Aug. 30; and Oct. 23-Dec. 27. Live Racing will be conducted throughout each period Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday evenings with a first race post of 6 p.m. The Penn Mile-G2 card is slated for May 31 with a special post time of 5 p.m. The reduction in racing days will mean an average purse increase of 25 percent.

Won:

The first year-long Maryland training championship by a woman, Brittany Russell, who won 118 races at Laurel Park and Pimlico Race Course in 2023. Russell clinched the year-end title held since 2017 by Claudio Gonzalez when Point Dume won a 2-year-old maiden claimer on New Year's Eve. The win put Russell five wins ahead of Jamie Ness, and gave Russell her 37th win at Laurel's season-ending all meet – the fifth individual meet training title of her career. Married to jockey Sheldon Russell, with whom she shares a daughter, Edy, and son, Rye, Russell set season highs across the board in 2023 with 687 starters, 177 wins, 141 seconds, 96 thirds and $7,996,867 in purse earnings. Nationally, she ranked 11th in wins and 16th in money won. "I'm just so proud of the team. It's a huge accomplishment for everybody and they've been working so hard," Russell said. "Now that everybody pointed it out to us we've been keeping an eye on it the last two days, and it feels really good to seal it up." Russell won 15 stakes in Maryland, earning multiple wins with Hybrid Eclipse and Prince of Jericho. She also earned her first Grade 1 triumph with Doppelganger in the Carter Handicap at Aqueduct and sent out Full Count Felicia to a victory in Suwannee River-G3 at Gulfstream Park in December. Russell, who grew up in Peach Bottom, Pa., saddled her first winner in February 2018 after working for trainers Brad Cox, Jimmy Jerkens, Ron Moquett and Jonathan Sheppard.

LYDIA A. WILLIAMS

JIM MCCUE

Crowned:

Maryland's leading jockey in 2023, Jaime Rodriguez, who won 166 races at Laurel and Pimlico. Rodriguez led Jeiron Barbosa (137), Jevian Toledo (130) and Angel Cruz (105). Rodriguez also led the way by earnings and captured Laurel's fall title 50-49 over Toledo. "We had a great year. Thank God everything came together in the last race and we got it done," Rodriguez said. "It's amazing. I never thought it was going to happen like that. I have the support from my family. That just makes me happy and makes it more special. Once you have the support of the family, you just have to keep it going and keep working." The 32-year-old native of Puerto Rico rides first call for Ness and in his first full season in Maryland added Laurel winter and summer meet titles, while also leading the five-month Delaware Park stand. Among his Maryland wins were stakes victories with 3-year-old Coffeewithchris in the Miracle

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G2-winning, multiple G1-placed millionaire. Sire of G2 winner **DOUBLE CROWN** ($838,185), **FORTHELUVOFBOURBON** ($573,120), **MALIBU MOONSHINE** (3 wins in 6 starts, $173,400), **RAGING WHISKEY** (G3-placed), etc. 11 total black-type earners.

$2,500 LFSN, BC & MM

HOLY BOSS

Street Boss–Holy Grace, by Holy Bull

VERSATILE RUNNERS: STAKES WINNERS LONG & SPRINTING ON DIRT AND TURF

Sire of MG3 **FIOLO BOSS** (in Argentina), **VANCE SCHOLARS** ($279,590), **BOSSERATI, Al Loves Josie** ($391,198), **Holy Synchronicity**, **Sparkle Sprinkle**, **My Boss, Sol Y Boss** (G2-placed in Arg). Blistering fast Saratoga G2 winner & MG1-placed. 100+ Beyers in the G1 Breeders' Cup Sprint, G1 Vanderbilt, G1 King's Bishop, etc. Earned $771,527.

$2,500 LFSN, BC & MM

LONG RIVER

A.P. Indy–Round Pond, by Awesome Again

G3 STAKES-PLACED WINNER IN FIRST CROP

13 winners from 25 starters including G3 stakes-placed **Azul Por Siempre** (in Chile). Lasix-free G1 winner with 124 Equibase dirt speed figure (highest of any stallion in MD). Multiple SW, 3-times graded stakes-placed, including G1 Jockey Club Gold Cup. Multiple 100+ Beyers.

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Milestones

Wood, Mavilus in the Conniver, Beth's Dream in the Heavenly Cause and 2-year-old Copper Tax in the James F. Lewis III, all at Laurel. Represented by agent John Weilbacher, Rodriguez tied Chuck Baltazar (1969) and Horacio Karamanos (2002) by riding a Laurel track record with seven wins on a single program March 17.

Vetoed:

By New Jersey Gov. Phil Murphy, a bill to extend annual purse subsidies at Monmouth Park from 2025-29. In its session ending in early January, the state's General Assembly passed the bill, which approved $10 million in funding (already secured for 2024) for Monmouth Park's spring/summer meet and 10 turf-only dates at the Meadowlands. The new bill also extended funding for Standardbred purses and breeding incentives. Despite the veto, the bill was expected to be supported and eventually signed into law during the new legislative session.

Retired:

To the Kentucky Horse Park's Hall of Champions, two-time National Steeplechase Association timber champion Andi'amu (Fr). The 14-year-old is the first steeplechaser to reside in the Hall of Champions, home to retired flat starts Accelerate and Roy H, and Standardbreds Western Dreamer, Won The West, Mr. Muscleman and Marion Marauder. Imported by Ballybristol Farm in 2015, Andi'amu raced for three seasons as a hurdler in the United States – winning once and placing in two Grade 1 stakes for trainer Leslie Young. Switched to timber in 2018, the son of Walk in the Park (Ire) won 11 races including the Virginia Gold Cup in 2019 and 2022, plus the International Gold Cup in 2022 and two editions of the Middleburg Hunt Cup. In 49 starts in the U.S. and overseas, the chestnut won 15 races and placed in 19 others while earnings $544,400. "As a two-time National Steeplechase Association Timber Horse of the Year, Andi'amu, was a dominant force until his recent retirement. His addition to the Hall of Champions celebrates his success in his sport and recognizes the importance of steeplechase in the history of the Kentucky Horse Park," said President Lee Carter. "We are grateful to Ballybristol Farm and Tom Collins for sharing Andi'amu with the park and our guests." Past residents of the Hall of Champions include Thoroughbred stars Alysheba, Bold Forbes, Cigar, Da Hoss, Forego, Funny Cide, Go for Gin, John Henry, Kona Gold and Point Given.

TOD MARKS

Names of the Month

Floor It. The Charles Town runner, a 4-year-old gelding trained by Kevin Joy for Anthony Tate, is by Accelerate.

Zamboni Warrior. Bred in Pennsylvania by the Warrior's Reward partnership and trained by Brandon Kulp for PA Warriors II, the 4-year-old is by Warrior's Reward out of Blue Hen Hockey.

Make a Splash. Wasabi Ventures Stables' homebred 4-year-old filly, second at Penn National in January, is by Jump Start out of Waveland.

Barbados

Speightstown–Northern Station, by Street Cry (Ire)

GRADED STAKES-WINNING SON OF LEADING SIRE SPEIGHTSTOWN

SPRINT SPECIALIST WITH MULTIPLE 100 BEYER FIGURES

$75,982 A.E./WINNER

57% WINNERS/STARTERS

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Jersey-bred Book'em Danno wins Tampa stakes, eyes Saudi Derby

By John Piassek

With the rise in New Jersey-bred foals over the past few years, it stands to reason that more top horses would start to come out of the Garden State.

One such runner is Book'em Danno. The gelded son of Bucchero, named for a catchphrase on the television series *Hawaii Five-O*, is one of five horses owned by Atlantic Six Racing, a group of six longtime friends.

Book'em Danno made waves last year, taking the Smoke Glacken Stakes at Monmouth Park Sept. 9 and the Futurity at Aqueduct Oct. 8. His 3-year-old debut in the Pasco at Tampa Bay Downs Jan. 13 made a national impact. Sent off at 1-9, he drew off to win by 12½ lengths, going 7 furlongs in 1:23.26. He became the second Jersey-bred 3-year-old in as many weeks to win a stakes, following Holly Crest Farm homebred Ship to Shore in the Limehouse at Gulfstream Park Jan. 6.

After such a victory, owners might dream of Churchill Downs on the first Saturday in May. If they're a little more level-headed, perhaps they won't try to stretch out to 1¼ miles so quickly, but will tackle sprint and middle-distance races.

Atlantic Six Racing and trainer Derek Ryan feel that Book'em Danno isn't a two-turn horse just yet and are not considering the Kentucky Derby-G1. The target is a road less traveled: the 1-mile, $1.5 million Saudi Derby-G3 at King Abdulaziz Racetrack in Riyadh Feb. 24.

"We've been looking at that race [since November]," said Ryan. "It's a one-turn mile, it's a lot of money, and

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"He moved like a cheetah. You never heard him, his feet barely touched the ground. Just a spectacular horse in motion and he never missed a day of training.

He's an incredible specimen and has a great aura about him. The class and quality to compete against the best of his generation in every race at 2, 3 & 4."

Mike Ryan

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he's a gelding, and so it makes sense to look at it."

It's a long way from the Jersey Shore.

And a new experience for the Atlantic Six crew – Frank Camassa, Jeff Resnikoff, Mark Rubenstein, James Rubenstein, Jim Scappi and their leader, Jay Briscione. The Oceanport, N.J., native has been a racing fan for years and is the brother of Paul Briscione, a Parx-based equine dentist. "We're a little bit different than most groups; Book'em Danno has his own personal dentist," Jay said.

He assembled the partnership a few years ago on the recommendation of Scappi. The group's first horse, Jersey-bred Counterfeitcurency, has won almost $200,000. The success gave them flexibility to look for other horses, and in 2022 they set their sights on a Bucchero—Adorabella yearling bred by Greg Kilka and Christine Connelly's Bright View Farm.

"We had a New York-bred [Two's a Crowd] that we had sent to Chris Gracie's farm," said Briscione. "As we got to know each other, I said, 'Do you, by chance, have any Jersey-breds?' and he had four that were going to the Mid-Atlantic sale."

Of those four, Gracie said he liked Book'em Danno the best, and Briscione made a deal with the breeders. Nobody knew it then, but the yearling colt's family was about to improve – dramatically. Kilka bought Adorabella, in foal to Fast Anna, at Keeneland January in 2020. The Fast Anna filly, Girl Trouble, sold for $15,000 as a yearling in 2021 and closed 2022 with a November stakes win. She won twice in 2023, including the Parx Futurity, and pushed her earnings to $283,490. Also in 2023, Adorabella's yearling Classic Empire colt sold for $135,000 at Fasig-Tipton Midlantic, and Adorabella (in foal to Medaglia d'Oro) sold for $550,000 at Fasig-Tipton November.

ENTERING STUD IN WEST VIRGINIA FOR 2024

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COADY PHOTOGRAPHY

Smarty Jones

Elusive Quality–I'll Get Along

$3,500 LFSN

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Champion 3YO and dual classic winner of $7.6 million. Sire of 39 SWs, 40 SPs, 3 champions, including probable 2023 PA-bred champion 2YO filly, 2-time stakes winner and 4-for-4 **AOIFE'S MAGIC** ($261,600).

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After early work at Rentz Farm in Ehrhart, S.C., Book'em Danno joined Ryan's barn, and was ready for his debut against Jersey-bred maidens Aug. 12. He cruised by 9½ lengths.

"We didn't crank him to win first out," Ryan said. "It's not my style usually, but sometimes horses just win like that."

Book'em Danno followed with the two stakes wins, and ended his season with a second in the Nashua at Aqueduct Nov. 5. Around that time, Atlantic Six and Ryan decided they'd rather pursue a trip to the Saudi Derby than the Kentucky Derby.

"I don't dismiss the Kentucky Derby lightly, it's obviously the most prestigious race in the world, but I don't think it's a fit for this horse at this time in his career," said Briscione. "I've been around for a long time, and I've seen a lot of nice 3-year-olds on the Derby trail who never surfaced again because they were asked to do something they weren't ready for, based on the ego of their owners. We're not dismissing him going longer, but at the time, the two turns aren't the best thing."

The Pasco was a perfect tune-up for such a goal. Ryan liked the performance, though he didn't expect such dominance.

"I didn't expect him to win as easy as he did, but I expected him to win," said Ryan. "I wasn't expecting a hard race, that was the purpose of going there. I didn't want him to have a hard race yet."

Ryan visited Saudi Arabia a few days after the Pasco and planned to make Book'em Danno's travel arrangements not long afterward. He hopes Book'em Danno's demeanor will serve him well on the trip overseas.

"He's an easy horse to be around, easy horse to train," said Ryan. "Anyone can get on him. The jock can get on him, I get on him sometimes."

Briscione trusts Ryan to get him ready.

"Derek's our trainer, and he's done a terrific job with him. There are risks and rewards to everything you do, and the reward here is the pot, the risk is what kind of effect it'll have on him," he said. "We're cognizant of all those things, but you can only manage so much, at some point, you've got to take a risk."

Stabled at Monmouth in the summer for more than 25 years, Ryan gets a chance to represent New Jersey racing on an international stage. He pays no mind to Book'em Danno's relatively humble origins.

"A good horse can come from anywhere," said the trainer. "Smarty Jones, he was a Pennsylvania-bred, he didn't know where he was from. Good horses are good horses. If they can run,

— Mid-Atlantic-bred Stakes Winners —

December 10 – January 13

Maryland-bred

DOUBLE CROWN, b.g., 2017, Bourbon Courage—Two Columbus, by Two Punch. B-Dr. & Mrs. Thomas Bowman & Rebecca Davis; O-Built Wright Stables; T-Raymond Ginter Jr. $100,000 Robert T. Manfuso S, Laurel, Dec. 23.

TOCAYO, b.c., 2021, Always Dreaming—Spooky Tooth, by Ghostzapper. B/O-Lugamo Racing Stables; T-Rodolfo Sanchez-Salomon. $125,000 Dania Beach S, Gulfstream, Jan. 6.

New Jersey-bred

BOOK'EM DANNO, dk.b./br.g., 2021, Bucchero—Adorabella, by Ghostzapper. B-Gregory Kilka & Bright View Farm; O-Atlantic Six Racing; T-Derek Ryan. $50,000 Pasco S, Tampa Bay, Jan. 13.

SHIP TO SHORE, dk.b./br.g., 2021, Sea Wizard—All Even, by Stephen Got Even. B/O-Holly Crest Farm; T-Eddie Owens Jr. $100,000 Limehouse S, Gulfstream, Jan. 6.

Pennsylvania-bred

AOIFE'S MAGIC, ch.f., 2021, Smarty Jones—Polarized, by Drosselmeyer. B-Mohns Hill Farm; O-A & J Racing Stable; T-David Dotolo. $200,000 Miss Behaviour S, Parx, Dec. 27.

CARMELINA, b.f., 2021, Maximus Mischief—Complete St., by St Averil. B-Lillith Boucher; O-Cash is King & LC Racing; T-Robert Reid Jr. $100,000 Gin Talking S, Laurel, Dec. 30.

DRUM ROLL PLEASE, ch.c., 2021, Hard Spun—Imply, by E Dubai. B-Barlar; O-Gold Square; T-Brad Cox. $150,000 Jerome S, Aqueduct, Jan. 6.

UNCLE HEAVY, b.c., 2021, Social Inclusion—Expect Wonderful, by Tiz Wonderful. B-Barbara Reid; O-Milam Racing Stables; T-Robert Reid Jr. $200,000 Wait For It S, Parx, Dec. 27.

Virginia-bred

GIGANTE, b.c., 2020, Not This Time—Summertime Green, by Empire Maker. B-Ann Mudge Backer & Smitten Farm; O-Iapetus Racing & Diamond T Racing; T-Steve Asmussen. $100,000 Woodchopper S, Fair Grounds, Dec. 30.

TUFANI, gr./ro.f., 2020, Distorted Humor—Windhoek, by Mineshaft. B-Chance Farm & Distorted Humor Syndicate; O-Susan Moulton; T-Michael Stidham. $100,000 Pago Hop S, Fair Grounds, Dec. 30.

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$200,000 GUARANTEED
THE BARBARA FRITCHIE STAKES (GIII)
Fillies and Mares - Four Year Olds and Upward // Seven Furlongs

$100,000 GUARANTEED
THE NELLIE MORSE STAKES
Fillies and Mares - Four Year Olds and Upward // One Mile and One Sixteenth

$100,000 GUARANTEED
THE JOHN B. CAMPBELL STAKES
Four Year Olds and Upward // One Mile and One Eighth

SAT/FEB 24 $200,000 IN PURSES

$100,000 GUARANTEED
THE MIRACLE WOOD STAKES
Three Year Olds // One Mile

$100,000 GUARANTEED
THE WIDE COUNTRY STAKES
Fillies - Three Year Olds // Seven Furlongs

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they can run. I didn't expect to have a Jersey-bred this good, I'd be lying if I said I did, but it was a welcome change."

Briscione is also thrilled at the opportunity.

"I have to pinch myself, and all of us are the same way," he said. "When we bought him, we hoped we'd get another Counterfeitcurency, who'd run through his conditions and maybe contend in a Jersey-bred stakes. To think that we'd be talking to the Saudis about this race, it's been an incredible experience. He's been a once-in-a-lifetime horse." ■

PHOTO COURTESY OF GINA ROBB

Another first foal of the region for Anna's Bandit when her Frosted filly arrived Jan. 4 at Jerry and Gina Robb's No Guts No Glory Farm in Woodbine, Md. It was the multiple stakes-winning mare's second foal.

THE RACING BIZ

The Independent Voice for Mid-Atlantic Racing and Breeding

"To control our destiny" – making a case for Pimlico Plus: Advocates of the Maryland Racetrack Operating Authority's "Pimlico Plus" plan unveiled in January portray it as a chance to get a clean slate and "control our destiny," reports Frank Vespe.

After long career, Frank Petramalo steps away: Longtime Virginia HBPA chief Frank Petramalo is retiring after a career that's seen the racing roller coaster and says it's the people that have driven him. Nick Hahn reports.

Late Nite Mistress conjuring memories of mom: Late Night Pow Wow was the best horse Javier Contreras ever trained. He's hoping her first foal, Late Nite Mistress, follows those footsteps. Ted Black reports.

Disputed Claim provides "One for the little guys": Racing's a tough game for the "small guy," says Beth Metrenas Watts, but on 2023 Maryland Million day, Disputed Claim gave her whole family a smile, writes Teresa Genaro.

Ronald Sigler, steering through tumultuous times: Ronald Sigler is perhaps best known in the equine world as a dentist, but in 2023 he was thrust by circumstance into training a string, too, reports Black.

Backtracks: Key to the Mint unlocks a title: Jennifer Kelly offers the story of largely forgotten Key to the Mint, Paul Mellon's champion 3-year-old despite going 0-for-2 in Triple Crown races.

Virginia has lots of ways to play

Virginia Breeders

NEW Beginning in with foals of 2024, Virginia breeders will earn bonuses for registered Virginia-breds finishing 1st through 3rd in open races in North America (state-bred and state-sired races are excluded except at Colonial Downs and NSA sanctioned meets in Virginia*). Foals must be dropped in Virginia and the foal's dam must reside in Virginia from September 1st, 2023, until foaling the following year. Mares purchased at public sale after September 1st may enter the program if they arrive at a Virginia Facility within fifteen days of the purchase date (60 days if purchased outside of the U.S.).

BONUSES PROJECTED AT 30% OF EARNED PURSES

*Pending VA Commission approval

Virginia-Bred/Sired/ Certified Developers

VA-Certified Developers:

Developers of VA-Certified horses earn up to a 25% bonus for open wins in the Mid-Atlantic region (NY, NJ, PA, DE, MD, WV), including NSA-sanctioned meets. VA-Certified Developers earn a 10% bonus for state-bred-restricted races in the Mid-Atlantic region. (Beginning with foals of 2023, bonuses will not be earned for wins in West Virginia).

VA-Bred or Sired Developers:

Beginning with foals of 2021, the developer will earn up to a 25% bonus on wins in the Mid-Atlantic region.

Virginia-Bred/Sired/ Certified Owners

- Owners of VA-bred/sired foals prior to 2021 earn up to a 25% bonus on wins in the Mid-Atlantic region, including NSA-sanctioned meets.
- Owners of VA-bred/sired foals earn a 50% bonus on purses 1st-4th in all open races at Colonial Downs.
- Increased purses for VA-Restricted races at Colonial Downs.
- VA-Restricted stakes and VA-Bred & VA-Sired stakes at Colonial Downs with up to $150,000 purses.
- Certified developer awards are not earned for out-of-state wins during the Colonial Downs race meet

See VaBred.org for program details

Or contact the Virginia Thoroughbred Association at 434-977-3716

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Into Mischief— My Wandy's Girl, by Flower Alley

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Out of multiple Grade 1 champion MY WANDY'S GIRL, winner in 15 of 25 starts
Won $100,000 Grade 3 Swale Stakes at Gulfstream
Saratoga Maiden Special weight debut winner at 2 by 10 lengths in 1:16.27
2nd in Keeneland's $150,000 Bowman Mill S.
Won a 6 furlong Allowance race at Gulfstream in 1:09.02
In his career, he beat G1 Winners CORNICHE, GUNITE, PINEHURST, etc.

2024 Fee: $2,500 Live Foal

(Special consideration for multiple bookings, stakes winners & stakes producers)

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MY PRANKSTER

Bay Horse, 2019; 15.3 Hands

		Harlan	Storm Cat Country Romance
	Harlan's Holiday	Christmas in Aiken	Affirmed Dowager
Into Mischief Bay, 2005		Tricky Creek	Clever Trick Battle Creek Girl
	Leslie's Lady	Crystal Lady	Stop the Music One Last Bird
		Distorted Humor	Forty Niner Danzig's Beauty
	Flower Alley	Princess Olivia	Lycius Dance Image (Ire)
My Wandy's Girl Chestnut, 2009		Unbridled's Song	Unbridled Trolley Song
	Unbridled Secret	Storm Dust	Easy Goer Storm Star

Dosage Profile: 1 5 0 0 0
Dosage Index: Infinity Center of Distribution: +1.17

RACING RECORD

Age	Starts	1st	2nd	3rd	Won
2	4	2	1 (1)	0	$147,400
3	5	1 (1)	1 (1)	1 (1)	166,440
4	1	0	0	0	1,000
	10	3 (1)	2 (2)	1 (1)	$314,840

At 2, won an allowance at Gulfstream Park (6 fur. in 1:09.02, defeating Little Vic, Hey Porter, etc.) and a 6½ fur. maiden special at Saratoga (first start, by 10 lengths over Seal Beach, Fromanothamutha, Cogburn, etc.); 2nd **Bowman Mill S** (sloppy track, to Nakatomi, defeating Chattalot, Freelancer, etc.).

At 3, won **SWALE S-G3** (7 fur., defeating Dean Delivers, Of a Revolution, In Dreams, etc.); 2nd **Maxfield Overnight S** (to Gunite, defeating Hoist the Gold, Tejano Twist, etc.); 3rd **Pat Day Mile S-G2** (to Jack Christopher, Pappacap, defeating O Captain, Trafalgar, Doppelganger, Tejano Twist, etc.).

STUD RECORD

MY PRANKSTER enters stud in 2024.

MALE LINE

His sire, **INTO MISCHIEF,** stakes winner of 3 races, $597,080, Cashcall Futurity-G1, Damascus, 2nd Malibu S-G1, etc. Leading sire.

INTO MISCHIEF has sired 154 stakes winners, including:

AUTHENTIC: Horse of the Year, champion 3-year-old male, 6 wins, $7,201,200, Breeders' Cup Classic-G1-ntr, Kentucky Derby-G1, Haskell S-G1, etc.

LIFE IS GOOD: Highweight older horse (9½-11 fur.) in U.A.E, 9 wins, $4,541,700, Breeders' Cup Dirt Mile-G1, Pegasus World Cup Invitational S-G1, Whitney S-G1, Woodward S-G1, etc.

GAMINE: Champion female sprinter, 9 wins, $1,771,500 in 11 starts, Breeders' Cup Filly and Mare Sprint-G1-ntr, Derby City Distaff S-G1, etc.

WONDER WHEEL: Champion 2-year-old filly, 4 wins, $1,591,857 to 3, 2023, Breeders' Cup Juvenile Fillies S-G1, Alcibiades S-G1, Debutante S, etc.

COVFEFE: Champion 3-year-old filly, champion female sprinter, 6 wins, $1,110,025 in 8 starts, Breeders' Cup Filly and Mare Sprint S-G1, Test S-G1, etc.

CONQUEST ENFORCER: Champion turf male in Canada, 5 wins, $551,938, Mathis Brothers Mile S-G2, Cup and Saucer S, Queenston S, etc.

MISS MISCHIEF: Champion female sprinter, champion older female in Canada, 9 wins, $522,980, Bessarabian S-G2, H.B.P.A. S twice, etc.

MANDALOUN: 7 wins, $3,356,052, Kentucky Derby-G1, Haskell S-G1, Risen Star S-G2, Louisiana S-G3, Pegasus S, etc.

GOLDENCENTS: 7 wins, $3,044,000, Breeders' Cup Dirt Mile-G1 twice, Santa Anita Derby-G1, Pat O'Brien S-G2-ntr, etc. Sire.

AUDIBLE: 5 wins, $2,130,520, Florida Derby-G1, Holy Bull S-G2, Cherokee Run S, 2nd Harlan's Holiday S-G3, 3rd Kentucky Derby-G1. Sire.

PRETTY MISCHIEVOUS: 7 wins, $1,944,560 in 10 starts to 3, 2023, Kentucky Oaks-G1, Test S-G1, Acorn S-G1, Rachel Alexandra S-G2, etc.

PRACTICAL JOKE: 5 wins, $1,795,800, Champagne S-G1, H. Allen Jerkens S-G1, Hopeful S-G1, Dwyer S-G3, 2nd Blue Grass S-G2, etc. Sire.

PLAYED HARD: 6 wins, $1,480,140 to 6, 2023, La Troienne S-G1, etc.

ATONE: 7 wins, $1,313,346 to 5, 2023, Pegasus World Cup Turf Invitational S-G1, 2nd Ft. Lauderdale S-G2, WinStar Mint Million S-G3, etc.

MIA MISCHIEF: 10 wins, $1,274,934, Humana Distaff S-G1, etc.

GINA ROMANTICA: 5 wins, $1,208,603 to 4, 2023, First Lady S-G1, Queen Elizabeth II Challenge Cup S-G1, Riskaverse S, 2nd Beverly D. S-G1, etc.

FEMALE LINE

MY WANDY'S GIRL. Champion imported 3-year-old filly in Puerto Rico, 15 wins in 25 starts, 2 to 5, $638,710 in U.S. and Puerto Rico, Clasico Accion de Gracias-G1, Clasico Dia de los Padres S-G1, Barbara Fritchie H-G2, Clasico Roberto Clemente-G2, Pentelis S, Clasico Dia de la Mujer, 2nd Barbara Fritchie H-G2, Ruffian H-G2, etc. Dam of 3 foals, two winners—

MY PRANKSTER (Into Mischief). Stakes winner.

He's Super Lucky (Super Saver). Winner at 2 and 3, $38,375.

UNBRIDLED SECRET. Unraced. Dam of 3 other foals, all winners—

Travinator. 9 wins, 3 to 6, $224,076.

Voodat. Winner at 3, $63,430.

Charlie Girl. Winner at 4, $29,936. Dam of **SAGUARO ROW** (5 wins, $365,464, Interborough S, Pumpkin Pie S, 2nd Go for Wand H-G3, etc.), **PINNACLE PEAK** (3 wins, $131,626, Prairie Meadows Juvenile Mile S, etc.).

STORM DUST. Unraced. Dam of 4 other foals, 1 winner, including—

Yamato Damashii. Placed at 3. Dam of **Spirit of Shanghai**.

STORM STAR, by Storm Bird. 2 wins in 4 starts at 2, $47,931 in England, Cherry Hinton S-G3, 2nd Gimcrack S-G2. Dam of 11 other foals, 5 to race, all winners, including—

CAPTAIN STARBUCK. 6 wins, 2 to 4, $162,254, Hawthorne Juvenile S, Royal Glint S.

DODGE. 3 wins at 3, $93,768, Best Turn S-G3, 3rd Riva Ridge S-G3. Sire.

Mission Pass. 4 wins at 3, $99,768. Dam of **COAST LINE** (5 wins, $191,957, John B. Campbell Breeders' Cup H, etc.). Granddam of **Malone**, **Princesa Real** (3rd Clasico Eugenio Maria de Hostos-G1 in Puerto Rico).

Shelterfromastorm. Winner in 2 starts at 2, $27,940. Dam of **SLY STAR** (10 wins, $87,021, Labor Day S), **Flanders Girl** (in Peru). Granddam of **SKY ENERGY** (3 wins, $84,054, Michigan Sire S).

Plateau. Unraced. Producer. Granddam of **BAY HARBOR** (in Chile), **LUCKY WINTER** (in Chile), **Winter Again** (in Chile) **Winy (Chi)** (in Chile)

CINEGITA, by Secretariat. 3 wins at 2 and 3, $54,050, Railbird S-G3, 3rd Senorita S. Half-sister to **ANTHURIUM** (sire). Dam of 12 other foals, 8 to race, 5 winners, including—

SYOURINOMEGAMI. 7 wins, 3 to 6, $2,292,723 in Japan, Laurel Racecourse Sho Nakayama Himba S-G3, Kyoto Himba Tokubetsu-G3, 2nd Mile Championship-G1, etc. Producer.

Choctaw Ridge. 2 wins at 2, $87,651, 3rd Kentucky Jockey Club S-G3, Flamingo S. Leading sire in Brazil twice.

Starlet Storm. 2 wins in 2 starts at 3, $35,200. Dam of **FLANDERS** (champion 2-year-old filly, 4 wins in 5 starts, $805,000, Breeders' Cup Juvenile Fillies-G1, etc.), **Late Edition** (3 wins, $102,029, 2nd San Vicente S-G2, etc., sire), **Cobb's Creek** (sire). Granddam of **SURFSIDE** (champion 3-year-old filly, 8 wins, $1,852,987, Santa Anita Oaks-G1, etc.), **BATTLE PLAN** (4 wins in 6 starts, $373,143, New Orleans H-G2, etc., sire), **FIERY PURSUIT** (5 wins, $336,322, Louisville Breeders' Cup S-G2, etc.), **TIZ IMAGINARY** (4 wins, $281,877, Duchess S, etc.), **STAGE TRICK** (5 wins, $198,817, Rosenna S, 3rd Obeah S-G3), **PLATED**, **House of Usher**, **Space Cruise**, **Flanders Fields** (sire), **Chatham**.

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— Next Chapters —

BY MAGGIE KIMMITT

Carrickboy

MAGGIE KIMMITT

Carrickboy takes a moment with Ricky Hendriks and Melissa Gartland.

You could say Carrickboy (Ire) was an impulse buy, and you wouldn't be wrong.

Trainer Ricky Hendriks hadn't noticed the horse in the catalog for England's Goffs spring horses in training sale at Doncaster in 2015. But when the 11-year-old gelding walked past, Hendriks did a double-take.

"I had gone over to look at some horses for George Mahoney, and I just happened to see Carrickboy walking around the ring," Hendriks said. "I was like, 'OhmyGod, look at this one!' He just looked different than all the other horses. He had a great presence about him. I looked up his form real quick; he was walking around and was going in the [sales] ring in about five minutes. His form was good; he had won a Grade 3 at Cheltenham. And I was like, 'OK, we buy this horse and bring him over, and he's a maiden over timber. OK.' "

Bred in Ireland, Carrickboy was destined for National Hunt racing (hurdle, steeplechase and distance turf bumpers) as a son of distance-loving Irish-bred turf horse Silver Patriarch – who won England's St. Leger Stakes-G1 in 1997 – and the Irish-bred Prince Rupert mare Alaskan Princess.

Trained by Venetia Williams, Carrickboy made his debut as a 4-year-old in 2008 and won twice over hurdles in Britain the next year. Switched to chasing in 2010, he won four times through 2014 – highlighted by that handicap score at the 2013 Cheltenham Festival (at 50-1).

By spring 2015, he was in the catalog with an uncertain future. Hendriks found himself bidding against Williams, who wanted the horse back for a young girl in her barn. But when the hammer fell at $6,290, agent Shane Flavin signed the ticket and Hendriks had the horse as a potential timber prospect for his son McLane to ride.

"The point-to-point people over there weren't even looking at him because of the races he'd won," Hendriks said. "But he had so much experience, and he would jump anything. So I bought him for McLane."

Carrickboy came to the United States with six wins in 33 starts throughout the United Kingdom, including Aintree, Ascot, Chepstow and Sandown. The bay gelding settled in for a bit of downtime at Hendriks' Pennsylvania base, spending the autumn of 2015 foxhunting – something that, to Hendriks' knowledge, the horse hadn't done before crossing the Atlantic.

He made his American debut in an allowance for amateur apprentice jockeys at My Lady's Manor in April 2016 and

finished second with McLane aboard. Three weeks later, they won a maiden timber at Winterthur, galloping in 37 lengths clear in soft going. After a third at Fair Hill, Carrickboy missed the 2017 season but returned as a 14-year-old in 2018. He and McLane were fourth on the Grand National card at Butler, Md., in April. Back at Winterthur two weeks after that, the injured McLane was replaced by Archie Macauley. The jockey misjudged the finish line and stood up early, but realized in time to get to the wire a half-length in front.

After his summer break, Carrickboy headed to Far Hills for a start in the New Jersey Hunt Cup and was fourth under Jack Doyle. They were fourth again in the season-ending Pennsylvania Hunt Cup in November.

Still up to the task at 15 in 2019, Carrickboy made two more starts, finishing third at My Lady's Manor and Willowdale with McLane. Carrickboy retired with a record of 42-8-4-6 and $193,732 to his credit (plus two American point-to-point wins).

"The most memorable moment for me was winning on him at Winterthur for my dad," McLane said. "It was special because it was a win on a horse he had brought over for me, and it was on a track so close to where we live. Lots of my friends from school were there, as is tradition, so to win there was incredible. I've also had many memorable days out foxhunting on him. He's just everything you could ever ask for in a horse – powerful yet extremely kind and intuitive."

Melissa Gartland echoes McLane's sentiments. She began working for Ricky in 2020, and learned the job on Carrickboy.

"He was pretty much the first horse I was put on," she said. "We'd go out into The Laurels and through the gallops out there, and I would get to tag along on him and learn the ropes. I had never done anything at all with racehorses before that, so I got to learn where to put my body, where to put my hands, how to stay out of his way. He was great to learn on, and like Ricky said – you were always 'going.' I fell off plenty of times."

Along with her mother Judith ("Jeddi") and sister Sara, Melissa has foxhunted since childhood and has also competed extensively in sidesaddle classes. In summer 2022, she was offered a whipper-in position with Radnor Hunt in nearby Malvern, Pa.

"It was something I had done as a kid and wanted to go back to doing it. When I talked to Ricky about it, he allowed me to take Carrickboy as well as Officer Sydney (Ire) to use. I was absolutely thrilled because I have always adored the horse."

In July 2022, Officer Sydney came to live with the Gartlands at their Oak Springs Farm in Cochranville, Pa. Carrickboy followed in September. Both adjusted seamlessly to the new jobs and living arrangements, but Melissa considers Carrickboy the true superstar in the hunt field.

> "He's phenomenal with the hounds. If I have to go out and get hounds and bring them back with me, he loves having them around him."
>
> *– Melissa Gartland, on Carrickboy's life with the Radnor Hunt*

"He's phenomenal with the hounds. If I have to go out and get hounds and bring them back with me, he loves having them around him," she said. "He was really quick to get the game. The hounds hit a certain pitch [when on a line], and he knows that pitch. You can feel him get excited. There are some horses that are a little bit funny with the long lash whip, but he actually never cared about it. I can even shoot a pistol off of him."

She had to pause and think when asked about the horse's odd habits or quirks, but laughed when the light bulb went on. He absolutely hates the heat, bugs and hot summer months, but thrives in cold weather. And he loves mud. He and Officer Sydney regularly stroll down to the creek in their field, wade in chest-high and splash. Thank goodness for hot running water in the Oak Springs barn.

Like McLane, Melissa has one special memory.

"In spring 2022, Ricky let me take Carrickboy to the Foxhall Team Chase in Maryland, and it was great fun," she said. "I loved this horse before that, but they had this big 4-foot hedge on the course. I was a little nervous about it, but he did not care one iota. Ricky told me to just keep my shoulders back, so I sat up, he locked on it, and that was it. He took me over it. It was the coolest feeling I've ever had on the back of a horse, and that pretty much cemented it."

Ricky Hendriks couldn't be happier for the now 20-year-old gelding.

"Melissa is great. She always sends me pictures of him, all kinds of videos. He looks like he did the day we bought him – just fantastic."

But McLane had the last word.

"Yeah, he really hit the jackpot with Melissa." ■

— From the editor —

BY JOE CLANCY

Steeplechase allies O'Keefe, Worrall will be missed

Somewhere, in some other world we don't know about, there's a well-run steeplechase meet taking shape.

Will O'Keefe and Margaret Worrall, two people who devoted much of their lives to American steeplechasing, died within two days of each other late last year. An announcer, meet director, record keeper, leader and doer, O'Keefe died Dec. 18. He was 76. A writer, owner, historian, meet director and trailblazer, Worrall passed Dec. 20. She was 81.

Even if their roles had diminished in recent years, both will be missed as nobody cared more about American jump racing than O'Keefe and Worrall.

O'Keefe's connection to racing came via his parents Frank and Lillian, who bred 1966 Kentucky Derby and Preakness winner Kauai King and were consignors at the Saratoga yearling sale for many years. Will watched Kauai King from Episcopal School in Washington, D.C., and later went to the University of Virginia and managed the family's Pine Brook Farm near Warrenton, Va. A foxhunter with Casanova, he found himself in charge of the annual point-to-point races there in 1980 and filled in as the announcer. He would go on to call races in Virginia and beyond for the next 40 years. He was the first announcer at the Maryland Hunt Cup, called all six of Saluter's Virginia Gold Cup victories and made "in hand and in command" somewhat of a cliché for a handy steeplechase winner.

Beyond the announcer's stand, he created a uniform entry process for point-to-points – saving time, money, work and mistakes for organizers and horsemen – and pieced together an online database of 50 years of records. Now managed by the Temple Gwathmey Steeplechase Foundation, the central entry office, its data and its processes are still in use. O'Keefe oversaw several point-to-points and National Steeplechase Association meets, served on the NSA handicap ratings committee and for 17 years was the executive director of the

Westmoreland Davis Memorial Foundation which included a 1,200 acre property, historic mansion and equestrian center at Morven Park in Virginia.

Beyond horses and racing, O'Keefe was a historian, an environmentalist and a preservationist. He'll be missed by someone in jump racing every day.

The same could be said about Worrall. Like O'Keefe, she left various marks beyond horses on land preservation causes, high-school English students, churches and historic properties.

Born on Maryland Hunt Cup Day 1942 (Winton won the first of his three, though the race was canceled in 1943, 1944 and 1945 because of World War II), Worrall had a seemingly lifelong connection to the race. She wrote about the race, and others, for the *Maryland Horse* magazine and later *Mid-Atlantic Thoroughbred*. Her first byline, as best we can tell, appeared in the August 1982 edition atop an article about an orphaned fox kit adopted by Hunt Cup executive secretary Cuppy Fenwick and his wife Betty.

Bigger assignments followed, as did a spot on the Hunt Cup committee (she was the first woman member) in 1995. Three years later, she succeeded Fenwick as the executive secretary (again the first woman to hold the post). She stayed in that role until 2006, and the race is now steered by Liz McKnight and Nancy Roberts. In 2015, Worrall received the S. Bryce Wing Award from the Maryland Hunt Cup Association for outstanding contributions to Maryland timber racing.

Worrall wrote two books about the Maryland Hunt Cup – the first in 1997 and the second in 2018. Worrall also published books about the histories of the Green Spring Valley Hunt Club, the My Lady's Manor Races and Maryland's Grand National Races.

Despite all the bylines, her unquestioned highlight of a life with horses and the Maryland countryside came in 1992 when Von Csadek – trained by her husband Doug, ridden by their son Patrick and owned by Margaret and her uncle Herb Sheppard – won the Hunt Cup after losing his rider at the fourth fence in 1989 and at the 21st (while in front) in 1990. The race, always the last Saturday in April but not necessarily the same date, occupied a special time for Worrall, who paid credit to the horse in the From the Author note in her first book.

"And last but not least, thanks to Von Csadek for making my dreams come true – and on my birthday no less!"

O'Keefe wasn't announcing that day, as the Hunt Cup didn't have one yet, but would have loved it.

An Opportunity for Maryland

January brought a much-anticipated report from the Maryland Thoroughbred Racetrack Operating Authority, which crafted a future business model called Pimlico Plus with a new racetrack, training center and operations model all backed by the state. The concept keeps the Preakness Stakes in Baltimore, forms a solid foundation for the industry and sets up a stable future.

But . . . there's always a but, right? None of it happens if the industry gets bogged down in details, individual interests, out-of-left-field complaints and non-collaborative thinking. Remember that as Pimlico Plus unfolds over the next few months. ■

Victory Tour

TEN-TIME WINNER DIVINE FASHION HEADS NATIONAL LEADERBOARD FOR 2023

By Joe Clancy

Can a racehorse be clutch like a human athlete? Can he recognize the moment? Can she stand and deliver when it really matters?

Don't try to answer those questions. Nobody knows, though moments like the third race at Mahoning Valley Race Course in Ohio Dec. 30 will make you think about it.

On the second-to-last day of 2023, at a track she'd never raced over, Maryland-bred Divine Fashion walloped five rivals in an otherwise insignificant $5,000 starter allowance to post her 10th win of the year. The 9¼-length romp tied Midwest star Fayette Warrior for the national lead. Bred by Susan Wantz, Divine Fashion raced 17 times in 2023 – posting the 10 wins, plus three seconds and two thirds while earning $140,332 for owner Richard Burnsworth and trainer Anthony Farrior.

It nearly didn't happen.

"She got real sick on me over the summer," Farrior said. "They were upgrading the electricity in our barn at Laurel and we had to move out. We went to the receiving barn and I'm not sure if the feed got moldy or what, but she stopped eating and got sick. We treated her for two days, medicated her, and she wasn't getting any better at all."

Farrior sent her to Mid-Atlantic Equine in New Jersey for possible colic surgery and a likely extended recovery period. Under the care of Dr. Janik Gasiorowski, the now 5-year-old mare spent a week or so at the clinic and missed two months of racing opportunities.

Gasiorowski didn't do surgery, but thought about it. Hard.

"With colic, the most important decision at the clinic is 'Does the horse need surgery, does it not need surgery?' " he said. "If you have something on an exam or bloodwork that tells you you might be able to hang on a minute, you can work with the horse. The problem on the veterinary side is if you operate on a horse that doesn't need to get operated on you've wasted the client's money, put the horse through surgery and cost them training and racing time. On the flip side, if you should operate and don't, you probably lose the horse."

No pressure. Divine Fashion had a right displacement of the colon, which can be painful but can also be managed. Gasiorowski called Farrior, talked it over, asked for some time. The filly passed gas, got fluids, was hand-walked and observed closely. Her colon shrunk, went back to its natural position and – eventually – she returned to normal.

"About the fourth day, they said she started coming out of it, and they kept her a few more days just to make sure she was going to be OK," Farrior said. "They put in a lot of hours with her to not do the surgery and it paid off. I didn't care if she ever ran again at that point."

She ran again, as well as ever. The daughter of Divining Rod had opened 2023 with restricted $5,000 claiming victories at Charles Town Jan. 7 and 14. She lost her next four (three to stablemate Dulcimer Dame), then won five of her next six through July 29. After the colic, she didn't run until Oct. 6, and handled $5,000 starter rivals again. Fourth in the Maryland Million starter handicap at Laurel Park eight days later, she was beaten a head by Betcha by Golly at Charles Town Nov. 16, and avenged that defeat Dec. 7 to get to nine wins. She put the exclamation point on the season Dec. 30.

"She knows where the wire is," Farrior said while trying to find a reason for her success. "She's not hard on herself,

she's level-headed, doesn't train hard. She doesn't miss a meal either, that's why we knew she was sick. She knows how to win. It seemed like the light clicked on for her in those starters, I don't know. Maybe it was the competition, maybe it was just her."

Gasiorowski called the success satisfying.

"I don't know if we can take any credit for it, but had we had to operate on her she wouldn't have had those races at the end of the year," he said. "You agonize about the decision. To sit outside the stall and watch a horse colic while you're telling the trainer to hang on . . . you don't want to be wrong. In this case we were right and it felt good."

Farrior wasn't really thinking about the national leaderboard until late in the year. Fayette Warrior, racing in Nebraska and Wyoming, won his 10 early and didn't run after Oct. 29.

"I just try to put them in the best possible race they can win," Farrior said. "When the wins start adding up, you think about it. In November, somebody told me she was close to the lead in the country, and I started thinking about it."

CONRAD PHOTO

KATHERINE TURNBULL / COADY PHOTOGRAPHY

Maryland-bred Divine Fashion wins her 10th race of 2023 at Mahoning Valley in late December. Back to work in 2024, she graces the paddock at Charles Town before a January win.

The starter allowance condition can create winning streaks, and Divine Fashion took full advantage. In 2022, Farrior claimed the bay filly for $25,000 out of a maiden win at Timonium. After three losses, she won a $10,000 non-winners-of-two claimer in November and closed that year with a loss in early December. Dropped in for the $5,000 tag to start 2023, she won twice and dodged would-be claimants.

"No one took her," said Farrior. "I was a little surprised, but they were the non-winners of three and non-winners of four conditions and Dulcimer Dame was winning the starters at that time so you weren't sure what races [Divine Fashion] might have to run in. I've lost some horses I never thought I'd lose so you never know. I'm just glad we got to keep her."

For breeder Wantz, the success has rewarded long-term faith. She bought Divine Fashion's third dam Feelin Better for $3,500 in 2000. The daughter of Dancing Count produced three winners for Wantz including Copper Fashion, who produced two winners led by the stakes-placed Easter Fashion. A daughter of Kela, Easter Fashion is up to four winners as a broodmare. Foaled at Country Life Farm, Divine Fashion spent about a year at Wantz's farm in Taneytown, Md., before going to the Fasig-Tipton Midlantic fall yearling sale in 2020. Country Life bought her for $20,000 and she made five starts for trainer Mike Trombetta, the last that maiden claimer at Timonium.

"She's not mine anymore but she'll always be mine," said Wantz, a former event rider whose racing stable included Grade 1 winner Dance to Bristol. "When you watch her do it with such ease, it's great. I don't have two-legged children. I love horses and I love dogs, and horses just give me goosebumps. It would be like if I were a parent and watched a child do really well in a concert or sports or something."

Wantz makes sure to tell Easter Fashion about her daughter's success and was looking forward to a Mo Donegal foal due Feb. 8. The 14-year-old mare was booked to Maximus Mischief.

"She is a tough mare, an alpha mare, who could run too," said Wantz. "She produces nothing but runners. Divine Fashion was the smallest foal she's had, but she's just been a superstar. I hope I have another one that's like that someday."

Farrior wasn't planning on a quick start to 2024 with Divine Fashion, but a $5,000 starter filled at Charles Town Jan. 5 and she was part of it. She won by 5¼ lengths at 1-9. The trainer will utilize multiple condition books – Charles Town, Mahoning Valley, maybe Laurel – while plotting a schedule this year. She'll stay eligible for the starters, if they fill, all year and could still fit a two-other-than allowance condition as well.

"She's better at Charles Town and Mahoning," said Farrior. "I don't think she likes the track at Laurel as much, but she's smart and is a great horse to be around. Training her is pretty easy."

And she's pretty clutch.

Mid-Atlantic Milestones

Divine Fashion wasn't the only Mid-Atlantic horse high on the list of 2023 winners. Florida-bred **Uncaptured Storm** won nine races, all in the region for Farrior and Mario Serey Jr. The trainers traded claims of the now 4-year-old Uncaptured gelding who started 18 times last year. He won his final start of 2023 at Laurel Dec. 22 (a $40,000 claimer) while racing for Farrior and Burnsworth.

"I tried to get him in one more in December [to go for 10 wins], but the race didn't go," said Farrior. "When he runs, he loses about a hundred pounds so you can't run him too many times. He's a cool horse, too, one of the barn favorites. If I still have him after his career, he'd be a great pony for someone."

West Virginia-bred **Never Compromise** tied Uncaptured Storm for second with nine wins – all at Charles Town. The son of Graydar and the Indian Charlie mare Ghost Canyon spent time with four trainers in 2023. Joan Reynolds lost him for $6,250 in January. Between Feb. 1 and Nov. 8, Ollie Figgins III won eight races (in 11 starts) with the dark bay gelding before losing him for $15,000. For trainer Stephen Murdock, Never Compromise won Nov. 22 and tried to create a three-way tie at the top with a 10th win Dec. 16 before settling for third. Again risked for the $6,250 level in that start, Never Compromise was claimed by Michael Sandoval but had yet to run back (through Jan. 16).

Never Compromise comes by his success honestly as his dam Ghost Canyon also produced nine-time winner Hidden

Biggest winners arrive from all pedigree corners

By Joe Clancy

Hunting for pedigree parallels among North America's winningest horses of 2023 feels akin to looking for the keys to the quarter pole in a hay net. There might not be any, and it's an impossible challenge.

But sometimes it's about the simple act of looking. Who cares if you don't find anything?

Maryland-bred Divine Fashion (10 wins in 17 starts) is by Country Life Farm stallion Divining Rod and from a long-cultivated regional female family. In 1986, Tom Bowman bought 19-year-old barren broodmare Shoosh for $4,000 at Fasig-Tipton Kentucky's January sale. In a sign of things to come, her Baederwood foal of 1987, Jazzwood, won 17 races. Her third foal for Bowman, Feelin Better, lost all 12 starts, but sold for $3,500 as a broodmare to Susan Wantz in 2000. Feelin Better's daughter Copper Fashion (Petionville) won twice and produced the stakes-placed Easter Fashion (Kela) on Easter Sunday in 2010. Sent to Divining Rod in 2018, Easter Fashion produced a bay filly who was the continent's co-leader by races won in 2023.

Like several on the list, Divine Fashion is in-bred to Mr. Prospector (in the fifth generation on her sire's side and the fourth on her dam's), and also to Nijinsky II (fifth generation top and bottom). Northern Dancer is also a frequent in-breeding influence among the 2023 leaders.

None of that should be surprising, but other influences among the group might be. Unbridled's Song and Storm Cat, not necessarily thought to be durability influences, appear in some pedigrees. A few are outcrosses, including eight-time winner Rejuvenate whose pedigree features no in-breeding through five generations. Eight-race winner Grand Wiser is in-bred to A.P. Indy in the third generation via sire Flat Out and dam Champagne Girl.

"I think it's more notable when you find a horse that isn't in-bred to Mr. Prospector or Northern Dancer," said

George Adams of Housatonic Bloodstock. "Whether it's Mr. Prospector or Northern Dancer, or whether it's nobody, there's a contingent out there that thinks we're too in-bred. The huge majority of the population is in-bred, but to have only a few of this group not in-bred feels like that if there was something to being an outcross making you tougher maybe we'd see more of them on this list."

Gone West sirelines power two on the list – Coastal Mission through Great Notion and Elusive Quality; and Little Roo Roo through Limehouse and Grand Slam. In Reality shows up on the dam side of Big and Classy and the sire side of Runaway Harry while Rahy appears in Rejuvenate's sire side and Little Roo Roo's dam side.

Flat Out sired nine-time winner Thetruthisthetruth and eight-time winner Grand Wiser. Dig one more level and you get his daughter First Kitten, who won seven races in 2023. Run Away and Hide's son Runaway Harry won eight while daughter Irish Exit put up seven wins. Uncaptured sired a nine-time winner and a seven-time winner.

Adams, and anyone else who looked at the group, would say it's an inexact collection of Thoroughbreds. They all won eight or more races in 2023, but that's the only common thread. They were bred in Maryland, West Virginia, Kentucky, Florida, California and Louisiana. Several raced in the region, taking advantage of year-round opportunities and friendly conditions. Most – other than Juddmonte homebred and likely Eclipse Award winner Idiomatic (by Curlin) – were inexpensive purchases or started out racing for their breeders.

"There is not a single bit of commerciality in those pedigrees," said Adams, knowing that's a slight overstatement. "The closest one is the Exchange Rate [Fayette Warrior, a $90,000 yearling], but he's out of a Peace Rules mare who's out of a Thirty Six Red mare. Great Notion [sire of eight-time winner Coastal Mission] is the closest to a commercial sire. That tracks, too, because if a horse could win 14 races and have some commerciality, they'd be off to the breeding shed."

Again, the melting pot of horses – and the vagaries of a single year – could skew any thoughts of compiling true data. The 2024 winners could be a completely different set of horses.

But back to the 2023 group.

Traffic Judge, sire of Divine Fashion's fourth dam, shows up in Coastal Mission's pedigree too via second dam Ten's Testamony, whose sire Deputed Testamony was by Traffic Judge's son Traffic Cop. Traffic Judge ran 44 times including a 19-start campaign as a 3-year-old in 1955. Traffic Cop started 17 times as a 3-year-old and 10 as a 4-year-old (winning nine races and placing in 13 others). Durability and consistency are in there somewhere.

Noted breeder Fred Hooper launched the female families of two horses on the list – Big and Classy and Rejuvenate.

Big and Classy, a Florida-bred son of Maryland-bred The Big Beast, is out of I'mclassyandsassy, whose dam Launch Site was bred by Hooper. The daughter of Relaunch lost her only start. Her dam Insight to Cope won 11 races. Her sire (Copelan) and dam (Precise Vision) were bred by Hooper. Go back one more generation, and it's all Hooper. He bred Copelan's sire Tri Jet (17 wins) and dam Susan's Girl (29). Hooper also bred Precise Vision's sire Visualizer and dam Excellently and Excellently's dam Poliniss.

Hooper bred Rejuvenate's fourth dam, Quaze Chimes and her sire (Crozier) and dam (Quaze), while third dam Breeze Chimes is a daughter of Copelan.

"The Fred Hooper bottom line is interesting, because that's the type of family you would expect to have 57 starts and 16 wins," said Adams, pulling out Rejuvenate's race record. "Pundits would point to that. That is a pedigree that leans toward durability."

Grand Wiser's sire line showcases durability in another way by leaping through decades from sire Flat Out (a foal of 2006), his dam Cresta Lil (1986), her dam Rugosa (1967), her sire Double Jay (1944) and his dam Broomshot (1926). That's 92 years in five generations of Thoroughbreds, which barely seems possible. Grand Wiser's fifth generation also includes Storm Cat, a foal of 1983.

"I'll bet Double Jay, when he sired that horse when he was 23 years old, didn't have as many foals on the ground as Golden Pal [who covered 293 mares in 2023] has in one crop," said Adams. "Those were different times."

Other than changing times, the biggest takeaway from the pedigree dive is variety. Successful racehorses can come from any end of the Thoroughbred gene pool.

"On one hand it might be more interesting if there were some similarities, but that's one of the great things about our industry," said Adams. "They don't have to have anything in common." ■

KATHERINE TURNBULL / COADY PHOTOGRAPHY

Coastal Mission, a son of Great Notion from a long line of Mid-Atlantic breds, counts the West Virginia Breeders Classic among his eight 2023 victories.

Canyon, eight-time winner Bullets Fever and six-time winner Ghost Fever. All were bred by John McKee.

West Virginia-bred **Coastal Mission** won eight of 10 in 2023, running the table at Charles Town for owner/trainer Jeff Runco and only tasting defeat in out-of-town stakes starts. The son of Great Notion and the Crowd Pleaser mare Smart Crowd is a half-brother to multiple stakes winner Lewisfield so brought plenty of expectations. The gray gelding won his debut at Charles Town in September 2021, and placed in two stakes that year. He won two of four starts in 2022, spending just shy of seven months on the sidelines between May and December. The 2023 schedule was considerably busier as he won his first two, finished fifth in Laurel's Not For Love Stakes in March, then reeled off six in a row topped by the Russell Road Stakes and Sam Huff West Virginia Breeders Classic. Runco aimed high, and Coastal Mission finished fifth of 12 in Aqueduct's Cigar Mile-G2 Dec. 12.

He earned the chance, and was far from disgraced while beaten 10 lengths at 15-1.

"He ran real well," Runco said. "He had the one hole, and was standing in the gate a long time. He got off flat-footed, the jock had to use him early to get a position and that might have cost him third."

Sitting at 11 wins and $586,653 in career earnings, Coastal Mission earned a winter break and will be pointed for stakes this spring.

"He's in light training and I might take him out to my place for a little while," Runco said in mid-January. "It depends on the weather and the footing. The Mid-Atlantic tracks in January and February can be a little tricky and you just have to play it by ear a little bit. He had a good campaign and a little break won't hurt him."

Runco credited a light schedule as a 2- and 3-year-old with at least some of Coastal Mission's good form in 2023.

"He got a little time off when he was young because he had a minor setback," Runco said. "He got to mature, didn't have to run too much as a young horse. That helps him hold up now. He's become a good horse, that's the simplest way to put it."

Coastal Mission's roots run deep in the region – through breeders Kim Firestone, Thornmar Farm, Marjorie Francis and Jim Lewis. New Jersey-bred Ten's Testamony (by Deputed Testamony) lost all six starts for Lewis. Her son Duckhorn won graded stakes and earned $747,812. Her daughter Smart Crowd won twice and turned into a star producer as the dam of five winners for Lewis, his wife Linda Zang and now the

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Speightstown–Alternate, by Seattle Slew

War Front–Centre Court, by Smart Strike

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First foals arrive in 2024

Into Mischief–Hopeoverexperience, by Songandaprayer

KATHERINE TURNBULL PHOTOS

Also standing: Leading WV sire **FIBER SONDE** (by Unbridled's Song) and G3 **MASTER RICK** (by Master Command)
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West Virginia-bred Never Compromise races to his eighth win of 2023 at Charles Town in November. He finished the year with nine.

Coleswood Farm banner of Runco and his wife Susan. After producing Lewisfield in 2014, Smart Crowd went four years without a live foal, but produced Coastal Mission in 2019 and added a Street Boss filly in 2020, a Competitive Edge colt in 2021 and a Unified colt in 2023 before she passed away. She gave Lewisfield, Coastal Mission and the others ability, and a competitive streak

"They're just good horses and they don't come around very often," said Runco. "The mare was pretty quiet and he's easy going and easy to deal with compared to Lewisfield. He was a tougher horse to deal with so this one is a lot different that way."

West Virginia-bred **Little Roo Roo** also won eight races in 2023 while making a dozen starts, all at Charles Town, for owner/trainer Michael Jones Jr. Bred by Sherwood Bryant, the son of Limehouse and the Bop mare Pepper Bay rose from maiden winner to three-time stakes winner by midsummer with scores in the Coin Collector, It's Only Money and Robert G. Leavitt.

Kentucky-bred **Grand Wiser** piled up his eight wins (from 14 starts) at Penn National and Laurel for trainer Jorge Maymo and owner Alberto Santiago. The son of Flat Out won six starter allowances or optional claimers and captured four in a row in April, May and June. Eight-time winner **Runaway Harry** showed his affinity for the Tapeta Footings track at Presque Isle Downs, winning six of seven starts at the Pennsylvania track. **Rejuvenate** collected his eight wins (from nine starts) at West Virginia's Mountaineer Racetrack. Second in his 2023 debut in July, the Kentucky-bred won his next eight starts. One more eight-time winner, Florida-bred **Big and Classy**, is a son of Maryland-bred The Big Beast. ■

Big Winners

NORTH AMERICA'S LEADING HORSES OF 2023 BY WINS

HORSE	*1ST*
DIVINE FASHION*	10
FAYETTE WARRIOR	10
NEVER COMPROMISE*	9
THETRUTHISTHETRUTH	9
UNCAPTURED STORM	9
AUSPICIOUS STYLE	8
BIG AND CLASSY	8
COASTAL MISSION*	8
FLY THE W	8
GRAND WISER	8
IDIOMATIC	8
LITTLE ROO ROO*	8
REJUVENATE	8
RUNAWAY HARRY	8

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First crop 2YOs of 2023 includes maiden special winner Sarah's Candy Camp (2nd start). **Private Contract**

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Harlan's Holiday–Unbridled Girl, by Unbridled

Denis of Cork

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11% BLACK-TYPE HORSES include **B'S WILD CORK** ($255,202), **ROMANTIC CORK** ($242,776), **RETURN TO DENIS** ($216,308), **SCOTTISH DENIS** ($206,293), **I NEED YOU**, and leading earner **Late in the Game ($281,039),** etc.

A G3 winner of $613,252, **twice classic-placed** (2nd G1 Belmont S, 3rd G1 Kentucky Derby). From the family of classic winner **DA' TARA**. **Private Contract**

Juba

2023 LEADING ACTIVE WV SIRE

By average earnings, % winners/runners, number of BTWs, number of BTHs. Lifetime AE/starter $53,219. 15 black-type earners, 13 as 2YOs, including **HESSICA** ($268,298), **FANCY HER UP** ($230,266) and 2023 2-year-old sensation **JUBAWITHATWIST** (4 wins, 3 stakes, in 6 starts) and 2023 WV Lottery Breeders Classic winner **JUBA'S HAT TRICK** (5 wins in 6 starts at 3).

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A Winning Ticket?

PIMLICO PLUS PLAN CHARTS COURSE FOR MARYLAND'S FUTURE

By Joe Clancy

Pimlico Plus. In different times, you might think Maryland racing rolled out a new wager with a carryover designed to change a successful bettor's life.

Then again . . . Pimlico Plus – the latest reinvention model for Thoroughbred racing in Maryland – might be exactly that. Unveiled Jan. 5 in a report by the Maryland Thoroughbred Racetrack Operating Authority, the plan calls for several major steps:

• Racing would consolidate at a reconstructed and reimagined Pimlico Race Course in Baltimore.

• Horses would be stabled at Pimlico and a new training center to be constructed at a site to be determined.

• The new Pimlico and the new training center would be owned by the state and operated by a non- or not-for-profit entity with ties to Maryland racing.

• Laurel Park would be used as it currently is, the main base of racing in the state, and host the Preakness Stakes during construction in 2025 and 2026, before being closed and developed for non-racing purposes.

• The new operator and/or the state would pay current Maryland Jockey Club owner 1/ST Racing an annual fee for full control of the Preakness and Black-Eyed Susan stakes and their connected racing days.

The full report runs 81 pages, and is accompanied by a 140-page review and analysis of various operating models, so there are numerous other pieces to this puzzle and racing can't simply hit the all button and move on.

The roots to Pimlico Plus lie in the Racing and Community Development Act passed by the Maryland General Assembly in 2020 to envision major improvements at Pimlico and Laurel and backed by $375 million in bond funding and accumulated dollars in the Racetrack Facilities Renewal Account. That plan made Laurel the year-round hub, with Pimlico being redeveloped to host the Preakness meet in the spring and other activities in the Park Heights area of the city the rest of the year.

As you probably know by now, that model never left the mutuel window – or the drawing board. In 2021, a thorough review of both properties and their deteriorating conditions put the costs far beyond the bond figure. Further studies focused on utilizing both tracks did the same, especially under the changing economic conditions of the last three years. In addition, federal tax laws made investing public money (from the state bonds backed by racing's share of slots revenue at Maryland casinos) in privately owned facilities not feasible. Maryland Jockey Club parent company 1/ST Racing would owe taxes on the state's investments/improvements in the properties.

From that reality, the Maryland General Assembly created the Maryland Thoroughbred Racetrack Operating Authority in 2023 and handed down two main objectives – reimagine the infrastructure to align with the available budget figure and recommend the best operating model for racing and the state's investment. The authority was also given the power to conduct racing if a racetrack owner decided to move on from Maryland or stop operating.

"A lot of work was done leading up to this," said Alan Foreman, an authority member and general counsel of the Maryland Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association. "The Maryland Stadium Authority had extensively studied Laurel

and Pimlico, and explored various options to try to make this project work. It became very clear that we did not have sufficient funding to support that project."

Rebuilding Laurel to be the year-round base would be cost prohibitive, leaving little funding for Pimlico. Opened in 1870, the track carries historical weight as the home of a jewel in racing's Triple Crown and packs political/economic clout as a part of Baltimore's identity. A reimagined Pimlico has also long been considered a key piece of any potential investment in and improvement of the surrounding community.

The authority, chaired by attorney Greg Cross, consisted of individuals representing owners, trainers, breeders, the Maryland Stadium Authority, Maryland Economic Development Corporation, the Maryland Racing Commission, the communities of Laurel, Pimlico and Bowie and others. Cross represented the state in connection with the 2009 bankruptcy of 1/ST Racing predecessor Magna Entertainment, negotiated the 2010 agreement to keep the Preakness in Maryland and more recently worked with industry stakeholders about options for the future of racing in the state. In nine months of meetings and presentations, the authority heard reports from industry groups and the public, sought expert opinions and hired consultants to chart a realistic path forward.

In its presentation to the authority, 1/ST Racing called for fewer racing days and a bigger piece of slots revenue for its operations. The future models offered by the MTHA and Maryland Horse Breeders Association looked to a broader racing schedule and a non-profit track operator. The authority also gathered input from the national Horseracing Integrity and Safety Authority, the New York Racing Association (which is rebuilding Belmont Park racetrack as a year-round base), the Tapeta Footings synthetic track manufacturer and Fair Hill Training Center among others.

The authority spent considerable time and resources studying operational models for racing and concluded that a for-profit operator such as 1/ST Racing faces numerous challenges in Maryland. No casino operations occur at the state's Thoroughbred tracks, cutting out a potential revenue stream. Horsemen prefer extended racing opportunities over shorter meets with higher purses. And any public-funded improvements to the properties carry a tax burden. Alternative models, such as those used in New York and at Del Mar Thoroughbred Club in California (which blend public ownership with not-for-profit management), created an opportunity for success.

"They wanted two, 40-day boutique meets, and to raise purses substantially and shift revenue from the horsemen/

"The Maryland Stadium Authority had extensively studied Laurel and Pimlico, and explored various options to try to make this project work. It became very clear that we did not have sufficient funding to support that project."

– Alan Foreman, on the change to a one-track future in Maryland

breeder side to their side," Foreman said of 1/ST Racing. "You would probably get that from any other operator because we don't have gaming. That's going to hold us back in terms of a private operator."

Out of all that information and input, Pimlico Plus came to be. In an online meeting with MTHA members in January, Foreman and Cross called the plan an opportunity – perhaps Maryland racing's last.

"The status quo isn't going to work or be sustainable," Foreman said. "We are creating an opportunity to control our own destiny and cement the future of Maryland racing for another generation or more at a time when this industry is severely challenged."

As attractive as artist's renderings and architectural plans of a new racetrack and a new training center are, the operational model is just as important. A racing-connected operator, released from the pressures of turning a profit, adds flexibility and improves the chances of success, according to Foreman and Cross.

"This is a bet-on-ourselves model," Cross told MTHA members.

Foreman pointed to the operational arrangements at NYRA and Del Mar, and said something similar could work in Maryland where the facilities would be state-owned, run by the not-for-profit and overseen by the authority.

"It's the only path," Foreman said. "It's driven by the Preakness and the importance of Pimlico to the city of

"If this happens, you'll want to breed and raise horses in Maryland now, not three or four years from now. You want Maryland-breds coming to the races in three, four, five years when the new track opens."

– George Adams, MHBA board member

Baltimore. Laurel is not an option. If you could find another property in the city that would work you might do that, but I don't think there are any properties. The importance of the project to the city of Baltimore in terms of urban renewal and redevelopment is immense."

The same could be said for its importance to the state's Thoroughbred industry.

Stakeholders have long pointed to an unstable racing product as a choke on the industry. A 10-year agreement between the Maryland Jockey Club and its horsemen for racing dates expired in 2022 and, though short-term renewals continue to fill the void, horsemen are using purse money (roughly $11 million this year) to offset MJC losses on a longer racing schedule. Thoroughbred breeders, owners, trainers, buyers and sellers point to that unsettled business climate when they discuss future investments in the industry. Meanwhile, the relative calm in surrounding states such as Virginia, West Virginia and Pennsylvania continues to call.

"It's horse racing, you never know until the next day," said Anthony Farrior, a trainer with horses at Laurel Park and other states. "I don't think it's ever really good when the government gets involved, but it works in New York and maybe it will work in Maryland too. If they do the financing with the bonds, that's 30 years of the slots revenue staying in place which is a good thing. I'm for it, it sounds good, but things like this always sound good."

The quality of racing and training facilities, and the business model, affect decisions throughout the Thoroughbred industry and reach years into the future.

"I hear some people say it's tough to think about breeding in Maryland right now, but now is the time to do it," said George Adams an MHBA board member and owner of Housatonic Bloodstock. "If this happens, you'll want to breed and raise horses in Maryland now, not three or four years from now. You want Maryland-breds coming to the races in three, four, five years when the new track opens."

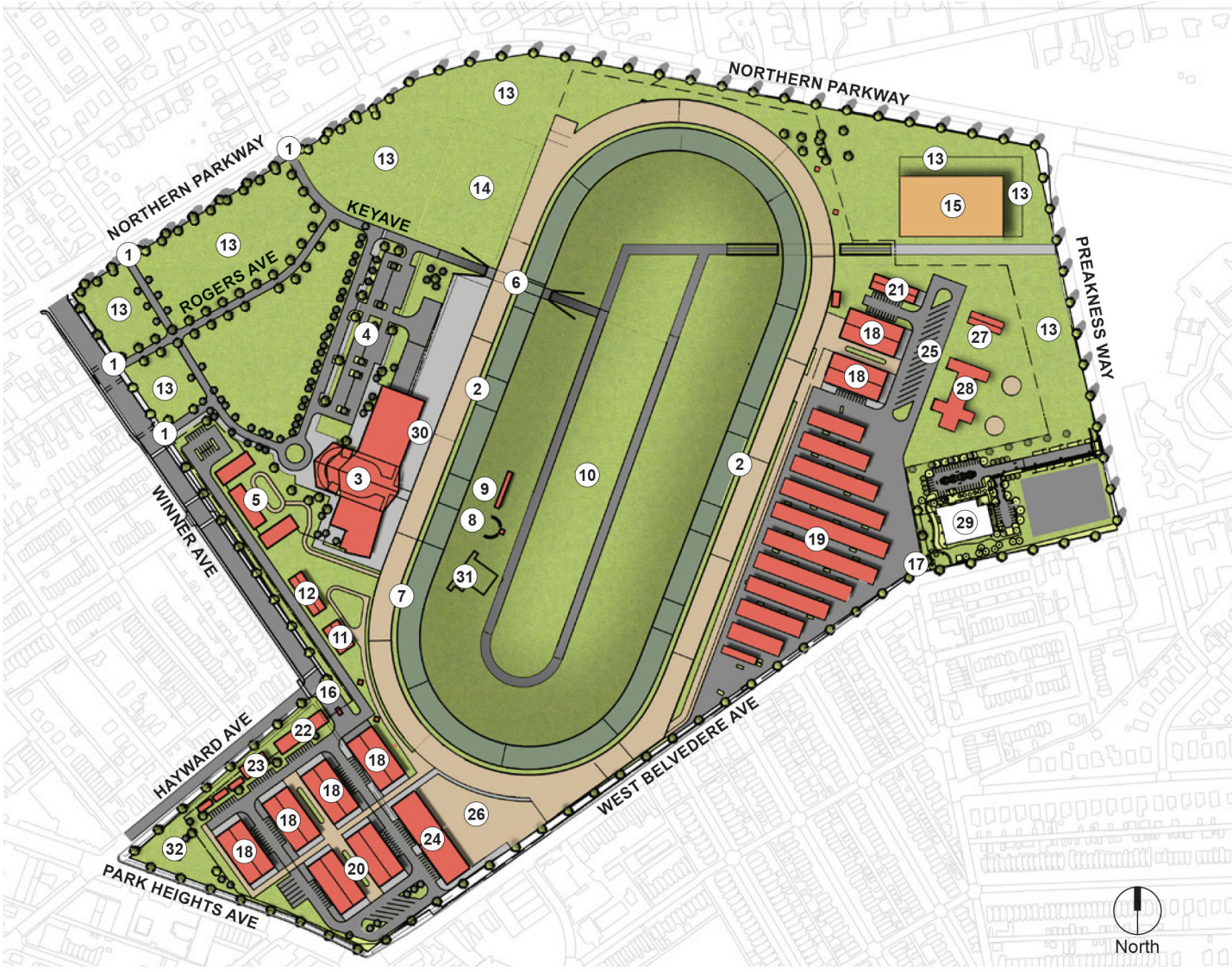
Adams credited the state and others for maximizing the importance of the horse industry, which makes a $2 billion impact on Maryland's economy while also protecting farmland and open space. On its own, the Preakness brings $52.7 million in economic activity according to 1/ST Racing.

"The industry is too big and too important here, and the politicians seems to get that," said Adams. "That's a credit to the likes of Cricket Goodall [of the MHBA] and others for pushing these studies and information to justify when we've asked for things. The new plan is a good thing, it should be easy to get behind for politicians and horse people."

In response to the authority's report, The Stronach Group and Maryland Jockey Club released a statement signaling participation in Pimlico Plus, calling it "the framework of an agreement in principle to preserve and enhance the Thoroughbred racing industry in Maryland. The understanding, subject to the negotiation of definitive agreements, legislative authorization, and all required governmental approvals, will enable the MTROA to design and build an iconic racing venue at Pimlico and take over day-to-day racing and training in Maryland. The Stronach Group and the Maryland Jockey Club, as the owners of the real property assets located at Laurel Park and Pimlico Race Course and the intellectual property assets comprising the Preakness Stakes and Black-Eyed Susan Stakes and related festivals, will be working with the MTROA to implement terms for the use of these assets in the short and long term. This will ensure a fluid transition from The Stronach Group and the Maryland Jockey Club as operators to the MTROA in 2025, as well as allow the time needed to develop a new training facility and modernize Pimlico Race Course. The Stronach Group and the Maryland Jockey Club will retain ownership of the intellectual property associated with the Preakness Stakes under a license to MTROA."

Pimlico's designation as the surviving track will require the construction of a training center, because of space constraints at the 70-acre city property and an estimated 1,200 total stalls needed for a stable racing population. The authority looked at eight sites and pushed three candidates to the top of the

Pimlico Option 01



Key

1. Primary Entry
2. Tracks (1 mile Dirt + 7 furlong Turf)
3. Clubhouse & Paddock
4. Paved Parking
5. Preakness Compound (20 stalls)
6. Tunnel #1 Vehicular
7. Tunnel #2 Pedestrian
8. Preakness Winner's Circle
9. Tote / Video Board
10. Infield
11. Test Barn (4 Stalls)
12. Holding / Assembly Barn (14 stalls)
13. Future Development Parcels +12.75 total acres
14. Future Hotel Parcel (2.5 acres)
15. Future Parking Garage +200 cars/floor
16. Backstretch Entry
17. Service / Emergency Entry
18. Stall Barn (40 stalls Each) +240 Stalls Total
19. Renovated Stall Barns +320 Stalls Total
20. Receiving Barns (80 stalls)
21. Pony Barn (16 stalls)
22. Racing Office
23. Track Kitchen
24. Track & Site Maintenance
25. Trailer Parking
26. Harrow Yard
27. Isolation Barn (12 stalls)
28. Veterinary Center
29. Lifebridge Center for Hope
30. Apron
31. Existing Chalet
32. Future Public Park Parcel +0.75 total acres

One option for a Pimlico rebuild leaves the track in its current orientation.

Models shown here created by Populous and are not final.

> "There's a lot of work to be done. The legislature has to consider changes to the 2020 law, the Preakness agreement needs to be negotiated and agreed to, we have to prepare for the decision of where the training center should go and we have to start planning the not-for-profit. We're going to have to sell this and continue to put it together."
>
> *– Alan Foreman*

list for consideration based on several criteria lines – Mitchell Farm in Aberdeen, Shamrock Farm in Woodbine and the former Bowie Racetrack and Training Center in Bowie – and set April/May as a goal for a decision.

Each facility will be built from scratch and include new barns, internal roads, support buildings, a veterinary/equine wellness research center and tracks of at least a mile (dirt) and 7 furlongs (turf). The dirt tracks will be built with synthetic-ready bases should a conversion become necessary. Materials within the report used the term "best-in-class" when it came to racing and training facilities with a focus on maximizing all revenue streams, attracting young audiences and focusing on equine health and safety while aligning Maryland with its fellow Triple Crown hosts Kentucky and New York.

Mitchell Farm - 97 acres

One of the potential training center sites is the Mitchell Farm property in Aberdeen.

Key

1. Primary Entry
2. Tracks (1 mile Dirt + 7 furlong Turf)
3. Service / Emergency Entry
4. Training Center Administration
5. Paved Parking
6. Stall Barn (40 stalls Each) +640 Stalls Total
7. Pony Barn (16 stalls)
8. Dormitory (75 rooms)
9. Isolation Barn (12 stalls)
10. Veterinary Center
11. Clocker's Building / Outrider Shed
12. Outrider Shed
13. Track Maintenance
14. Site Maintenance
15. Harrow Yard
16. Manure Transfer Building
17. Vendors / Track Contractors
18. Trailer Parking
19. Tunnel - Vehicular & Equestrian
20. Future Barn Sites

Pimlico Option 02

Key

1. Primary Entry
2. Tracks (1 mile Dirt + 7 furlong Turf)
3. Clubhouse & Paddock
4. Paved Parking
5. Preakness Compound (20 stalls)
6. Tunnel #1 Vehicular
7. Tunnel #2 Pedestrian
8. Preakness Winner's Circle
9. Tote / Video Board
10. Infield
11. Test Barn (4 Stalls)
12. Holding / Assembly Barn (14 stalls)
13. Future Development Parcels +13.75 total acres
14. Future Hotel Parcel (2.5 acres)
15. Future Parking Garage +200 cars/floor
16. Backstretch Entry
17. Service / Emergency Entry
18. Stall Barn (40 stalls Each) +560 Stalls Total
19. Clocker's Tower
20. Receiving Barns (80 stalls)
21. Pony Barn (16 stalls)
22. Racing Office
23. Track Kitchen
24. Track & Site Maintenance
25. Trailer Parking
26. Harrow Yard
27. Isolation Barn (12 stalls)
28. Veterinary Center
29. Lifebridge Center for Hope
30. Apron

A second Pimlico option realigns the track to parallel city streeets and reconfigure the barn area.

At Pimlico, a new clubhouse will be built with a capacity of 5,200 spectators in its standard configuration and an expansion to 71,000 in permanent facilities and temporary overlay for the Preakness. The Pimlico proposal included two options, one where the track stays in its existing position and renovates existing barns and one where the track is rotated to parallel city streets, allow for additional development parcels and all new barns. Each Pimlico version includes a 20-stall Preakness compound, an 80-stall receiving barn and additional development that could include an on-site hotel, parking garage and other pieces.

During the MTHA meeting, several questions arose about workforce housing at Pimlico and the training center. In many cases, backstretch workers live in dormitories at the tracks and that may change under Pimlico Plus due to costs, construction challenges and local regulations.

"They come here to work, to make money and send money home," said Farrior of stable staffers who frequently arrive from Central and South America on temporary visas. "They don't want to spend a lot of money on their living arrangements. That's an important piece to it all."

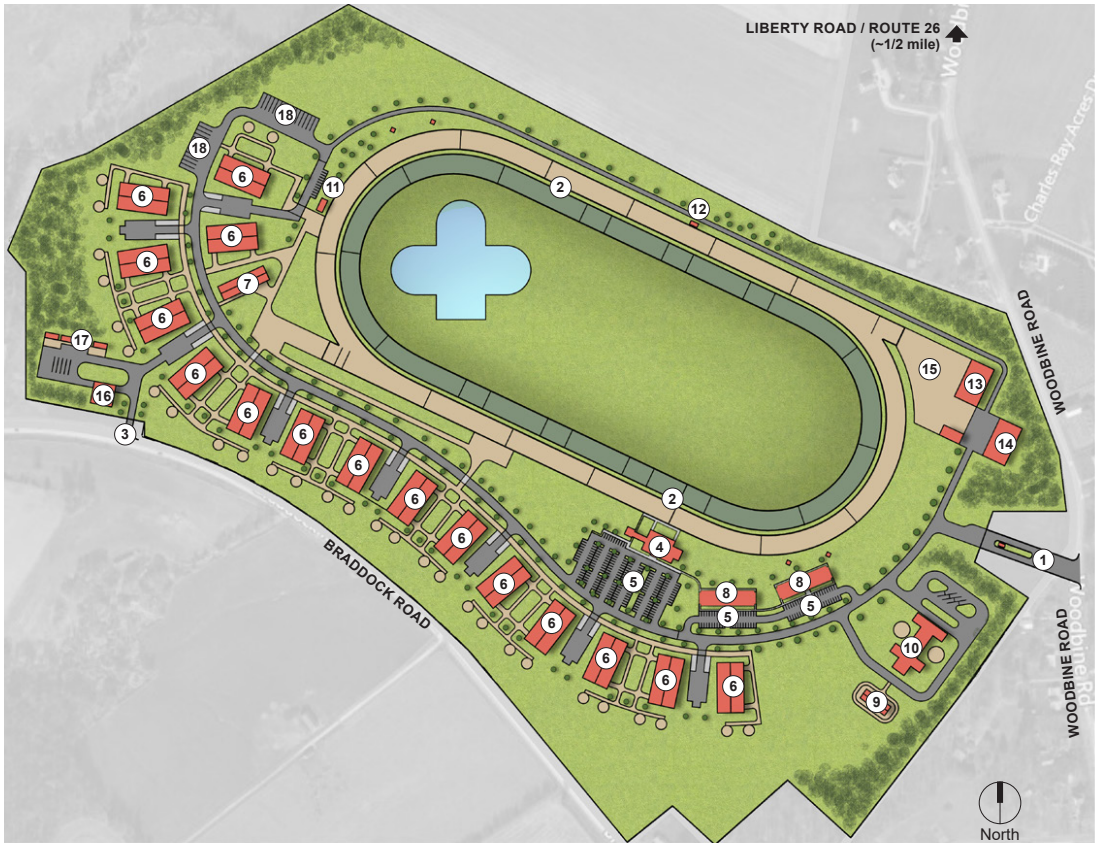
Foreman and Cross said the construction costs will fall "within range" of the original bond funding available, where the two-track plans put forth in 2020 and 2021 were up to $300 million over budget. Acquisition costs for the training center property, the Preakness licensing agreement with 1/ST Racing, final designs, construction contracts and other details such as employee housing will come in time. The 2024 legislative session will be important as the authority's report was submitted to the Budget and Taxation, Appropriations and Ways and Means committees in Annapolis.

"There's a lot of work to be done," Foreman said. "The legislature has to consider changes to the 2020 law, the Preakness agreement needs to be negotiated and agreed to, we have to prepare for the decision of where the training center should go and we have to start planning the not-for-profit. We're going to have to sell this and continue to put it together." ■

All of the MTROA published reports may be found at MarylandThoroughbred.com under the About tab: MTROA Report, Racing and Training Center Report, and Operating Models Report.

Shamrock Farm - 155 acres

Another potential training center location is Shamrock Farm in Woodbine.



Key

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12. Outrider Shed
13. Track Maintenance
14. Site Maintenance
15. Harrow Yard
16. Manure Transfer Building
17. Vendors / Track Contractors
18. Trailer Parking

1 Maryland's Thoroughbred Industry Firsts:

- **Organized racing in North American (Maryland Jockey Club, 1743)**
- **State Breeders Association (Maryland Horse Breeders Association, 1929)**
- **Annual Thoroughbred Yearling Show (Maryland Horse Breeders Assocation, 1932)**
- **State magazine for horse industry (The Maryland Horse, 1936)**
- **International race to feature horses from four continents (Washington, D.C. International, Laurel Race Course, 1952)**
- **Major northern state to pioneer winter racing (Bowie Race Course, 1957)**
- **State breeder incentive development program (Maryland Fund, 1962)**
- **Million-dollar, one-day stallion stakes event (Maryland Million, 1986)**
- **State equine library and education center (Maryland Horse Library, 2022)**

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GREELEY AND BEN, DOUBLE CROWN SHINE IN LATE-SEASON STAKES

By John Piassek

"Old guys rule" was the mantra at Laurel Park Dec. 23 as two veterans – 9-year-old Greeley and Ben and 6-year-old Double Crown – emerged victorious in stakes company. Greeley and Ben gobbled up ground in the center of the track to win the 6-furlong Dave's Friend by a half-length for his 25th victory. Two races later, Double Crown, in his 18th start of 2023, earned a nose victory over favorite Offaly Cool in the Robert T. Manfuso at 1⅛ miles.

The two geldings have much in common. Both are closing in on $1 million in earnings ($987,138 for Greeley and Ben, $838,185 for Double Crown). Both were claimed for $40,000 in 2022 and both are only getting better.

Darryl Abramowitz, who runs Merrick Mint in Freeport, N.Y., grew up a few miles from Belmont Park. After dabbling in ownership and breeding in the 1990s, he watched Justify win the 2018 Belmont Stakes-G1 to become racing's 13th Triple Crown winner and began assembling a stable through the claim box. He won his first race at Saratoga in August 2019 with Blissful Breeze, a filly he claimed for $32,000 at Belmont a little over a month after Justify's big win.

Abramowitz now owns 17 Thoroughbreds, all trained by Horacio De Paz and most with the trainer's Maryland string.

"Horacio fits what I like to do, and he's a wonder to work with," said Abramowitz. "He knows young horses, he's an expert with young horses and getting them going and cultivating them and making them into really nice horses. He understands the patience of the game and understands the older horse. Whatever fits our bill for our horse, Horacio will do. I started in this game with Allen Jerkens, and I've been around a lot of the top trainers, this guy is sharp. He knows his stuff. He should get a lot more credit than people give him."

Abramowitz takes ownership seriously. He does his homework on each potential claim and tracks possible starts for runners all over the East Coast. "I'm really involved, from the trainer's standpoint, to picking the races to putting the horses at different levels. I search up and down all the tracks for claiming horses, where we're going to run horses. I talk to a lot of the jockey agents, a lot of the jockeys. If you're really going to have 17 horses, you've got to run it like a business and you've got to know what you're doing and be involved head-to-toe."

Abramowitz found his best claim at Saratoga Sept. 4, 2022, when Greeley and Ben started for a $40,000 tag. The then-8-year-old already boasted an impressive resume. After ending a 13-month layoff in September 2020, he won 17 of 23 starts, including nine straight from April to September 2021. Those 17 wins included three stakes – the 2021 David M. Vance at Remington Park, 2022 Sam's Town at Delta Downs and 2022 Stonerside Sprint at Sam Houston Race Park.

Going into that Labor Day Sunday at Saratoga, Greeley and Ben had lost two in a row, the first time he had done so in more than three years. Still, Abramowitz was intrigued.

"I had taken chances before with horses of his nature, from a Ballagh Rocks type of horse to Abiding Star, and I had done well, they were fun for me," Abramowitz said. "I just liked his back class."

Greeley and Ben won by a neck, Abramowitz won a two-way shake and the gelding joined the barn of Jeff Englehart.

"He was built like Shaquille O'Neal," said Abramowitz. "He was stocky, he was put together well, he was thick from the legs to the stomach to the head to everything. He was just an overall fit horse, built and strong. Most horses weigh around

JERFFRY SNYDER

Greeley and Ben flies home at age 9 to win the Dave's Friend Stakes at Laurel in December.

1,000-1,100 pounds, some go to 1,200, but Greeley and Ben weighs 1,300 pounds, give or take 10 pounds. He has a lot of power in his back end."

Though Englehart wasn't initially as ambitious, Abramowitz had big plans. After a second in an allowance at Laurel a month later behind graded stakes winner Morello, Abramowitz lobbied for the Bold Ruler-G3 at Aqueduct Oct. 29. Englehart initially objected, but decided to take a shot, and Greeley and Ben finished fourth, beaten less than a length.

Following a victory at 1-9 in a starter allowance at Aqueduct Nov. 10, Greeley and Ben returned to stakes company in the Fall Highweight-G3 Nov. 26. Racing for Englehart's assistant, Faith Wilson, Greeley and Ben won by a neck in a four-horse photo finish, giving Abramowitz his first stakes victory.

"I was in total shock," he said. "It was something I'd have never dreamed of, and Greeley did it."

Greeley and Ben was entered in the Dec. 30 Gravesend, but was scratched. After briefly rejoining the worktab in spring 2023, he went to the sidelines again – including some time at Merryland Farm in Maryland – and joined De Paz in early September.

Well-beaten in his comeback at Laurel Nov. 10, his first start in nearly a year, Greeley and Ben bounced back with a nose victory in allowance company Dec. 2. That set the stage for the Dave's Friend.

Abramowitz attributes Greeley and Ben's success to his strength, and his IQ.

"Greeley and Ben is a smart horse," said the owner. "When you go home and you ask your dog if they want to go for a walk, and the dog gets all excited and he wants to go for a walk, and he comes back to the house and you give him a little treat, he's the happiest dog in the world. Well, Greeley and Ben, he's a big, overgrown dog. I tell Greeley, 'You wanna go to the racetrack?' and his ears pop up and he gets all excited. He starts prancing around. He wants to go out to the track. When he comes back, he goes to eat his food and I say, 'Greeley, I got a

> "If you want to compare him to an athlete, he's Cal Ripken, who's the Iron Man, and Mike Tyson, who's a fighter. He's those two rolled into one."
>
> *– Owner Darryl Abramowitz, about Greeley and Ben*

candy for you.' He turns around, turns his head, and comes to me like, 'I want the candy.' "

If Abramowitz tells his horse there's no more candy, the bay gelding "turns around and goes right back to his food."

Greeley and Ben loves affection. "I can rub his mane, he'll put his head down in between my legs, and he'll say, 'Keep petting me Darryl, it feels good.' I rub him, I pet him, he's the nicest horse to be around, he's a smart horse."

Snacks – specifically donuts and Pop Tarts – are a big part of his life.

On one visit to the barn, Abramowitz saw Wilson with Pop Tarts in her hand.

"Who are those for?" the owner asked.

"They're for Greeley, he loves them," Wilson replied.

She handed Abramowitz a Pop Tart and Greeley and Ben "engulfed" it, though there are at least some dietary restrictions.

"Don't give him too many," Abramowitz said. "If it's like once a week or every two weeks, that's fine. But he's just a happy horse, and he loved the Pop Tart, and she said he also likes vanilla-frosted donuts, so I give him those every once in a while."

Greeley and Ben capped his season with a fifth in the Gravesend at Aqueduct Dec. 30, a performance Abramowitz attributed to the deep surface.

Bred in Kentucky by the Millard Seldin Revocable Trust, the son of Greeley's Conquest made his first 15 starts for his breeder – winning six times for trainers Gary Thomas and John Ortiz – before getting claimed for $10,000 at Oaklawn Park in March 2021. He has started for six trainers since, in everything from a $12,500 claimer to Grade 3 stakes. As a 10-year-old, he can no longer race in New York but Greeley and Ben is far from finished.

"If you want to compare him to an athlete, he's Cal Ripken, who's the Iron Man, and Mike Tyson, who's a fighter," said Abramowitz. "He's those two rolled into one. I wish he would stay 9 years old forever. He's a very special horse, very special. Greeley has class, and Horacio has class."

A few races later, Double Crown went postward in the Manfuso for Lynn and Lola Cash's Built Wright Stables and trainer Ray Ginter Jr. The Cashes re-entered the racing business in spring 2021 after several years with a small investment. Lynn took out his training license in Kentucky, and set about building a stable through the claim box.

Double Crown fits the Built Wright mold like a new roof Lynn Cash's firm Built Wright Homes might install. Claimed for $40,000 at Churchill Downs in June 2022, the hard-trying, durable horse has been busy since, with 28 starts and five wins in 18 months through Jan. 10. His most prominent win came in a 42-1 upset of the Kelso-G2 at Aqueduct in October 2022.

Prior to the Manfuso, Double Crown finished sixth in the Tinsel Stakes at Oaklawn Park Dec. 16. Undeterred, the son of Bourbon Courage shipped back to Ginter's Laurel stable and began preparations for the Manfuso. The Built Wright team was happy going into the race.

"Recently, he put on about 75 pounds, which I think is heavier than we ever had him before, and I think that's helped him," said Lynn Cash. "If you look back through his record, every time he's had three, four weeks rest, he doesn't put out, he doesn't perform to his level. When you really perform athletically, I think it releases endorphins that kind of perks his body up."

Double Crown had only one start in the seven weeks before the Tinsel, a second in the 7-furlong Howard and Sondra Bender Memorial Nov. 24. Cash thought the relative lack of activity might have contributed to his sluggish performance. He figured another quick turnaround would help.

Under Jeiron Barbosa, who "fits the horse like a glove," according to Ginter, Double Crown rated off the pace and moved to engage leader Offaly Cool in the stretch. The two dueled to the wire, and despite Offaly Cool's drifting, Double Crown had enough to get up and win by a nose at 10-1.

"I don't think we've ever been a favorite and performed," said Cash of the upset. "He'd be a bettor's dream. He paid $22 here, in the Kelso he paid $86 to win, and I think the other one, we were $14 or $16 in the one at Pimlico."

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- Joe Nevills

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- Chris McGrath

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- Chris McGrath

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- Bill Oppenheim

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JIM MCCUE

Maryland-bred Double Crown gets up in time to win the Robert Manfuso Stakes by a nose for his second stakes win of the year.

The victory was Double Crown's third of 2023, including a win in the Polynesian ($15.80) at Pimlico Sept. 10. All three stakes wins for Built Wright came on six or seven days' rest. Cash speculates that his ability to bounce back without Lasix helps him, especially with the anti-bleeding medication now barred in stakes races.

"The Kelso was Lasix-free because it was a Grade 2 [in 2022]," said Cash. "Of course, now, all stakes are Lasix free, and so I think, again, it's not that he doesn't need Lasix, but it almost seems like maybe he doesn't need it as bad as some of the other stakes horses. We decided to keep him in some of these stakes he can win, because I do think it moves him forward when the race is off Lasix. I think other horses are more dependent on Lasix, you know, maybe they don't perform as well because they bleed a little bit, but this guy, I scoped him after the Oaklawn race, and not a drop of blood.

"It feels like he's running better than he's ever run right now," Cash said. "He's a sweet horse. You'd like to have about 20 of him in your barn."

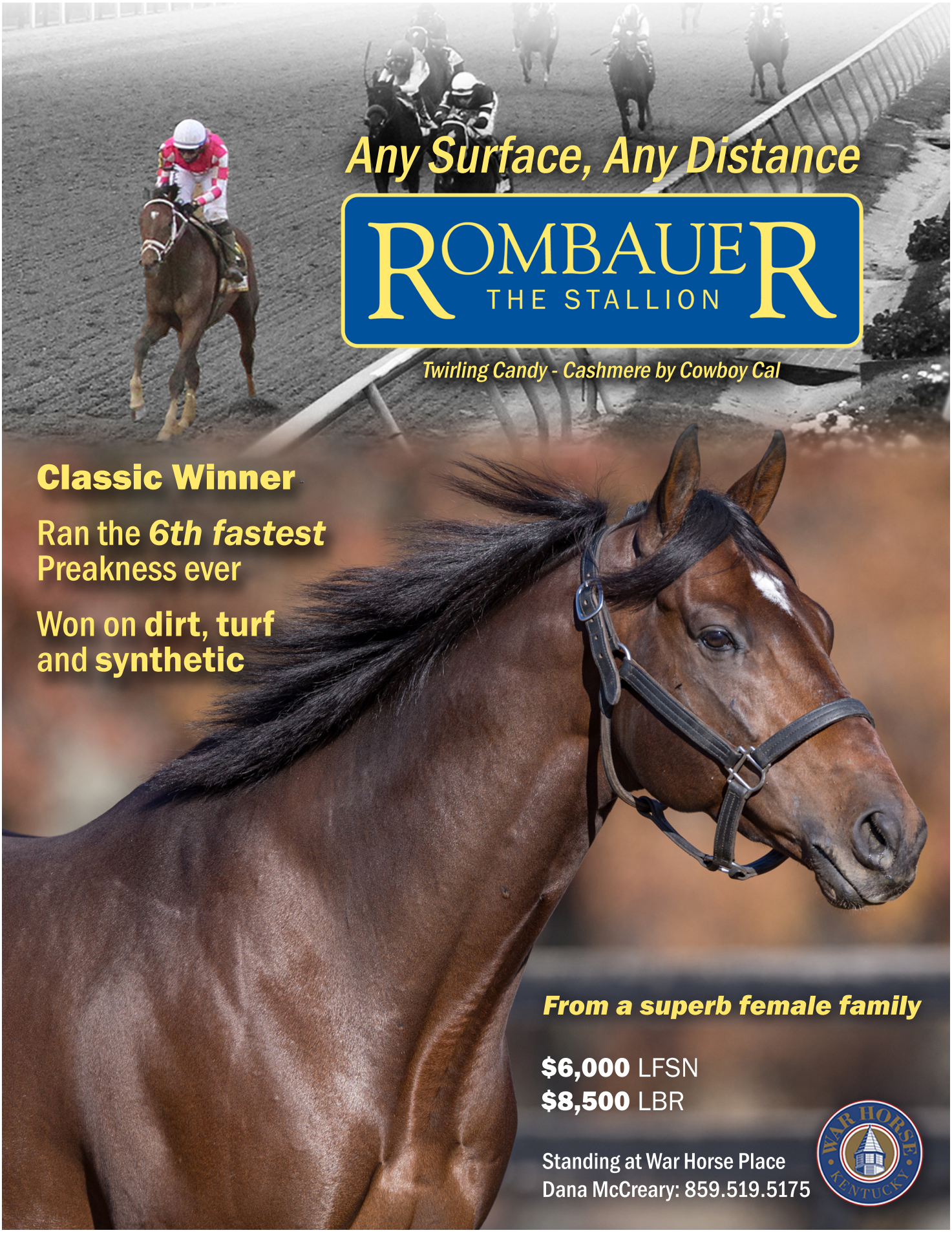
Ginter agreed.

"He just excelled in the Built Wright program," said the trainer. "When you run this horse back quick, five, six, seven days, that's when he runs his best races. He doesn't require a lot of training, just good maintenance and keep him in a good environment and keep him strong and happy. He's an easy keeper."

Bred in Maryland by Tom and Chris Bowman and their daughter Becky Davis, Double Crown won his debut for trainer Lacey Gaudet in September 2019 and was purchased by Reeves Thoroughbred Racing. He won three times, including the Roar and Carry Back Stakes at Gulfstream Park, and placed in two Grade 3s before being claimed by Cash.

Seven days after the Manfuso, Built Wright and Ginter picked up another stakes win, as 2-year-old homebred Sweet Soddy J won the Heft by 6 lengths.

"Up until the Heft, he's not changed leads as quickly or as naturally as we'd like," said Cash. "We had the riders really working with him, making sure, asking him to change leads coming off every corner and trying to get that to be a more natural thing. In the Heft, we were up by 2 lengths, and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Barbosa, he gave the horse a breather, and they caught up to within a half-length, and you know, you see a rider look under his arm, or look back, that usually means he has a lot of horse, and he looked back, flipped the reins, asked the horse to change leads for the first time, and from that point on down, he ended up putting 5½ lengths on the group."

Though well-beaten in the Jerome next out Jan. 6, Sweet Soddy J will get more chances and a reunion with Barbosa.

The Heft capped off another solid year for Built Wright, which reached purse earnings of $3,481,711 in its second full year. It also marked a career year for Ginter, a Lexington native who took over training the Built Wright horses in June. Ginter worked at various farms in the Midwest and maintained a small stable of horses on the side, along with running Southern Choice Meat and Seafood in Richmond, Ky. He had never worked with horses of this caliber until this year, and is enjoying the experience.

"The Built Wright Stable is solid," said Ginter. "They keep you in good quality horses, and Mr. and Mrs. Cash really like to race, so that helps too."

Ginter oversees strings all over the country, including a 16-strong barn at Laurel run by Troy Balsinger. "He oversees that string and does real well with those," said Ginter. "I got good-quality horsemen in there, that's what it takes to run it."

NOTES: Laurel hosted two other stakes Dec. 23. New York shipper Headland, at age 7, recorded her first stakes win in her 44th career start in the Willa On the Move for owner Thomas Brockley, trainer George Weaver and jockey Angel Cruz . . . Saddle Up Jessie took the Carousel by 4¾ lengths as the 11-10 chalk, giving trainer Brittany Russell her 15th Maryland stakes win of the year. Russell also saddled runner-up Hybrid Eclipse and clinched the Laurel fall title and the overall Maryland title a few days later. She won 37 races at the fall meet and 119 total in Maryland this year (including one at Timonium). . . Carmelina prevailed in the Gin Talking Stakes on the Dec. 30 program, holding off Russell-trained favorite Cap Classique. It was the Maximus Mischief filly's fourth win in sixth starts, and third stakes win. Sheldon Russell was aboard for owners Cash is King and LC Racing and trainer Butch Reid, who capped off a career-best year with his 18th stakes win. . . Jaime Rodriguez edged Jevian Toledo for the fall riding title (50-49) and was also the leading rider in Maryland, with 166 wins. Rodriguez, tied with Toledo entering the final race of the meet Dec. 31, guided home Midnight Renegade to seal the crown. ■

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Smart Filly

AOIFE'S MAGIC STIRS MEMORIES WITH PERFECT 2-YEAR-OLD SEASON

By John Piassek

Twenty years ago, Pennsylvania-bred colt Smarty Jones set the racing world afire when he became the first undefeated Kentucky Derby-G1 winner in 27 years and followed up with a dominant Preakness Stakes-G1 win before losing the Belmont Stakes-G1 in a heartbreaker.

Now, one of his daughters, Aoife's Magic, has racing fans dreaming about history repeating. The Pennsylvania-bred filly was perfect in her juvenile season in 2023, winning her four races, including two stakes, by a combined 22¼ lengths. Her most recent score came Dec. 27, when she won the $200,000 Miss Behaviour Stakes for Pennsylvania-bred and -sired fillies by 3 lengths as the 7-10 favorite in her two-turn debut. Her races have become must-see events not just locally, but nationally, and social media posts about her resonate with an audience far beyond the Keystone state.

She's the star of Art Hetherington's A and J Racing Stable, and trainer David Dotolo's barn. Their stable numbers five horses, plus a new 2-year-old slated to join the string in the spring. All this attention is unexpected, but welcome.

"When you win a race, you go in the winner's circle, you get your picture taken, it's always the best thing," said Hetherington, "and now these people are coming up to me and are like, 'Can I talk to you?' and I'm like, 'Why?' And then I realized, 'Oh, I won a stakes.' "

It's a new experience for Hetherington, who had never won a stakes, or even four races of any sort in a row, prior to 2023.

Hetherington, retired from a career in the software industry, grew up in New Jersey, but didn't catch the racing bug until moving to Louisville, Ky., after marrying his late wife, Judy.

"My wife was very into horses, I was not," he said. "When you live there, you go to Churchill Downs because it's where people go, it was a meeting place, it was a place where you had fun, pure and simple, and of course you could bet."

Art and Judy frequented Churchill Downs, and when they moved back to New Jersey, they frequented Monmouth Park and visited tracks all over the country, at one point setting the (unrealized) goal of visiting every track in North America. By the mid-2000s, they had set aside enough money to dabble in racing partnerships. They began racing under A and J Racing Stable in tribute to themselves. While they found their first foray at Monmouth Park unfulfilling, they soon gravitated toward Parx Racing and Lisa Allen. There, they struck paydirt, buying 25 percent of Allen's LA Thoroughbreds horses and enjoying modest success.

"We weren't making a lot of money, but we were doing well. We were breaking even, $200 up one year, $200 down another year, $1,000 up another year, you know, floating around," said Hetherington. "It was sort of like, 'We're having a great time, and it's not costing us a lot.' "

In the mid-2010s, Art and Judy decided to try their hand at breeding after $7,500 claim Sweet as You Are won five races (including a stakes) for LA Thoroughbreds. The daughter of Mecke went to Wiseman's Ferry in 2014 and the resulting foal Wise Jude – born a few weeks after Judy died in April 2015 – earned $238,722 in 42 starts and is retired at People's Farm in Souderton, Pa. Around that time, Hetherington re-branched out into his own stable and brought along Dotolo, who had trained the LA Thoroughbreds runners. The New England native came to Pennsylvania in the late 1980s when

Aoife's Magic returns to the winner's circle undefeated in four starts after the Miss Behaviour Stakes in December.

then-employer Dan Hasbany opened a string at what was then Philadelphia Park.

The operation got a serious shot in the arm at the 2022 Fasig-Tipton Midlantic fall yearling sale, when a chestnut filly caught the attention of owner and trainer.

"She stood out to me because she was a chestnut," said Hetherington. "She really was a beautiful-looking filly, even then, she was really good-looking."

The filly, who became Aoife's Magic, was bred by Ed Price's Mohns Hill Farm in Reinholds, Pa. Price purchased the former cattle farm in 1988 after moving from New England and continues to maintain a small broodmare band. He purchased Aoife's Magic's second dam, Immune to Gloom (by Citidancer), for $14,000 at the 2012 Fasig-Tipton Midlantic December mixed sale on behalf of longtime client Tom McClay. McClay bred Immune to Gloom to Drosselmeyer in 2013, and got chestnut filly Polarized. He campaigned her throughout her 12-race career, which saw her win twice and earn $73,029.

"She got a minor injury which stopped her racing career and at the time [McClay] was cutting back on horses," said Price. "We had sold Immune to Gloom at Keeneland November [2016, for $9,000], so I found her a spot with Danielle Marie [of D&M Performance Horses in Bernville, Pa.]."

Price helped Marie with Polarized's first mating, to Peace and Justice, which produced three-time winner Refund Rigler. After Polarized's second foal, a colt by Winchill, died, Marie sold the mare to Price, who, wanting a Pennsylvania sire, bred her to Smarty Jones.

"She's a really nice mare, a really, really nice mare to be around," said Price of Polarized. "Good-sized, she's pretty, she's correct, very uncomplicated, and obviously she passed along her racing ability."

Aoife's Magic was born at D&M Performance Horses May 5, 2021, and grew up at Mohns Hill.

"She was very uncomplicated, easy to be around, got along with the other foals fine, she was always sound, everything was good about her," Price said.

"You're not really thinking you're going to get a stakes horse, because that's unlikely. You want a good, solid runner who can win allowance races, and really, that's what I wanted for Aoife . . . She's proven to be more than that."

– Owner Art Hetherington, about stakes winner Aoife's Magic

Hetherington and Dotolo and took her home for $16,000. Price was happy to see her go to Pennsylvania connections. He recognized Hetherington signing the sale slip, and remarked to a friend, "Hey, isn't that guy's trainer from Parx?" It turned out Price would get to see Aoife's Magic's success up close.

Dotolo sent Aoife's Magic to Tommy and Lori Fackler's Best a Luck Farm in Reddick, Fla., and she joined the race barn last spring with rave reviews.

"She's something special," the Facklers told Hetherington. "You're going to have a lot of fun with her."

Around that time, the filly received her unusual moniker (pronounced "Ee-fa") from David's wife Pat. As Hetherington recalled, "She was angry at me for naming a horse we had bought before that, so I told her she could name this one. She wanted to name her just Aoife, who is a well-known warrior in Irish mythology, and also a popular Irish female name. I looked up 'Aoife' (in The Jockey Club database), but it had already been taken.

"We were thinking of what to do, and the three of us were at breakfast, and basically I decided, 'I like Aoife, why don't we do something with it? Like 'Aoife something,' and so we came up with Aoife's Magic."

Not long after she got settled in at Parx, Aoife's Magic made an impression on everyone on the backstretch, though maybe not in a positive way, with a scary training incident.

"It was only her second day on the racetrack, and she had gotten spooked a little bit, and she reared up, and her rider fell off," Dotolo said.

Charging down the track the wrong way, Aoife's Magic ran toward the barn area, where she slid and scraped up all four legs. After a few weeks she returned to training and except for a small scar on one knee, there were no after effects.

"Knock on wood," the trainer said, "she's been super ever since."

Aoife's Magic continued to train well and was ready for her debut in a 5½-furlong maiden special weight for Pennsylvania-breds Sept. 11. She ran off the screen, leaving her dueling partner in the dust and drawing off by 10¾ lengths. The dominant win inspired Hetherington and Dotolo to try the $150,000 Imply Stakes on the Pennsylvania Derby undercard Sept. 23, despite the relatively quick 12-day turnaround.

"David and I both thought that might've been a little too soon, because she's a 2-year-old, it's not like she's raced a lot and we understood her ability," said Hetherington. "However, after she won her maiden race so easily, we both thought she had a good shot at doing well in the Imply, especially because it was a restricted race. So we thought, 'Well, she's shown that she does have ability, you know, and so we might as well take a shot.' "

She rewarded their faith. On a rainy afternoon, Aoife's Magic splashed home by 4¼ lengths.

"When she won, I was ecstatic," said Hetherington. "It's hard to really put into words how your first stakes win really, sort of, is your first stakes win. It was just amazing. I was truly stunned by how easy she won it. When they were coming around the turn, I thought, she had a really good shot. When she pulled away, it was like, 'Wow, that was just an unbelievable feeling.' "

Hetherington always tempers his expectations as an owner.

"You're not really thinking you're going to get a stakes horse, because that's unlikely," he said. "You want a good, solid runner who can win allowance races, and really, that's what I wanted for Aoife. I just hoped she'd be a solid, good allowance runner. She's proven to be more than that."

After two wins in 12 days, Aoife's Magic had a breather before a 4¼-length win in an open first-level allowance sprint Nov. 15. That set her up for her season finale in the Miss Behaviour at a mile and 70 yards, her first start around two turns.

Even though the added distance was new, Dotolo was confident.

"You don't know for sure [until she does it], but with her breeding and everything else, and the way she gallops and

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KIM PRATT

Dubbed the Princess of Parx by announcer Jessica Paquette, Aoife's Magic is ready for the spotlight with trainer David Dotolo.

trains, I didn't think there'd be any problem going two turns," the trainer said. "The kid has a tough time pulling her up after galloping her a mile and a half in the morning."

Dotolo's prediction proved correct. Pressed early by long-shot Lucky Opportunity, Aoife's Magic pulled clear in the stretch, and won under regular rider Wilfred Vazquez to end her rookie season with $261,600 earned – tops on Hetherington's career ownership list and second on Dotolo's training record behind durable gelding Layers at $306,124.

The wins come with attention.

"Aoife's Magic embodies a lot of what I love about this sport. Great horses can come from humble beginnings and there are so many genuinely good horsemen and women who just need a special horse to showcase it," Parx announcer Jessica Paquette tweeted following the Miss Behaviour. A *Thoroughbred Daily News* Instagram post after her Nov. 15 win garnered almost 2,000 likes (not far off what a Cody's Wish post garnered a few days prior), while a Facebook post about her Miss Behaviour win received 571 reactions and more than 20,000 impressions.

"It's something that's new to us," said Dotolo, "but she loves the attention herself. She knows she's a special little filly, she's a ham. Not a real big, rangy filly, but she's a little stick of dynamite."

Aoife's Magic has been nominated for the Kentucky Oaks-G1 at Churchill Downs on the first Friday in May. "We'll see what happens," said Dotolo. "Who knows? You just don't know. She deserves it."

For Hetherington, a trip to the Oaks would mean going back to the place where he fell in love with racing, and would be a joyous return. "I would love that. Going back to Louisville would be a dream come true."

NOTES: Later on the Dec. 27 card, **Uncle Heavy** came from off the pace to win the $200,000 Wait For It Stakes, the male equivalent of the Miss Behaviour, by 1¼ lengths as the 13-10 second choice. He's by Social Inclusion, who stood at the now-closed Diamond B Farm, and was bred by Barbara Reid. Owner Milam Racing Stable purchased Uncle Heavy's dam, Expect Wonderful, for $1,700 at the 2020 Fasig-Tipton Midlantic December mixed sale, while in foal with Uncle Heavy. He's trained by Butch Reid, Barbara's brother-in-law, and was ridden by Mychel Sanchez. . . Unsurprisingly, **Jamie Ness** captured his fourth consecutive Parx training title, winning 152 races from 598 starts. Scott Lake finished second with 62 victories. . . **Sanchez** took his third riding title with 145 wins. Ruben Silvera (123) and Frankie Pennington (108) also cracked the century mark. . . **Causes Trouble** was the winningest horse at Parx in 2023, with seven wins from 16 starts at the track and earnings of $134,850. He races for owners John Fanelli and Longball Stables and trainer Harold Wyner. ■

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BY VINNIE PERRONE

Wonder Horse

A FOAL OF 1924, VIRGINIA'S LADY DAZZLED A NATION

For 30 years she bedazzled the nation, answering unknowable questions, telling fortunes, solving crimes. She convinced a renowned behavioral scientist of her telepathic powers, earned coverage in *Time* and *Life* magazines and buoyed the spirits of a people wracked by economic depression. Even then, United States citizens traveled untold miles and paid freely to tap the insights of the intriguing figure with the quiet bearing, expressive eyes and off-white stockings. Three of them.

A hundred years ago this month, Feb. 9, 1924, a filly of uncertain breeding met Virginia earth and bounded into equine legendry without so much as a gallop. Her breeder called her Lady for the classy way she acted as a foal abandoned; the world would call her Lady Wonder for her spellbinding erudition.

The vagueness of her origins only teased the mystery: Her breeder said Lady had a Thoroughbred granddam but fretted that her parents might have been siblings. Neither mattered to Claudia "C.D." Fonda the day she and husband Clarence drove the Piedmont foothills in childless woe to buy a pleasure horse. Among the mares and sucklings silhouetted in a summer paddock stood a solitary filly who commanded C.D.'s gaze. "I want her," she insisted against the breeder's repeated cautions of the foal's uncertain pedigree and extraordinary nursing needs.

Plain in appearance, C.D. Fonda had a vivid persuasiveness; she and Clarence returned to 10 Petersburg Pike, southwest of Richmond, removed from a trailer the blaze-faced orphaned bay and led her into a spacious storehouse behind their home. Confident of the acquisition, C.D. had readied the makeshift stable and set Lady to a freshly bedded stall.

From the outset, they lived as mother-daughter. Determined never to ride the filly, C.D. instead bottle-fed her, read her children's books, identified species of flora, tree and creature on nature walks. Eventually, she got Lady to form simple words by nuzzling wooden letter blocks atop a platform table, the strange doings at times witnessed through a filmy window by neighbor and local busybody Ivey Stone.

During a fundraising discussion at a Ladies Auxiliary meeting, Stone insisted that locals would pay to witness Lady's intellectual talents. "All horses eat H A Y," she advised, "but that Fonda horse is the only one I've seen spell it."

To that point, spring of 1927, Lady hadn't turned any letter blocks without a cue. After C.D. interrupted practice one day to catch Lady's stall and refresh her water bucket, she heard blocks clack atop the wooden table. Ears twitching, the filly presided over four haphazard squares that displayed the letters E N G I. Puzzled, C.D. untethered Lady, bedded her down, prepared to leave the barn and froze. Somewhere in the distance, the faint sound of a tractor engine grew louder.

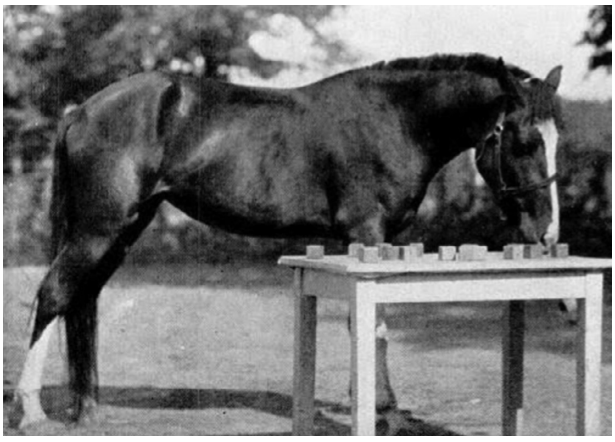
Wise to Stone's penchant for promotion and keen to public murmurings, C.D. anticipated her neighbor's entreaty; she agreed to invite interested townspeople to the barn to watch her "educated horse" perform and share proceeds with the auxiliary. From C.D.'s perspective, it would extol the filly's intellectual prowess and the animal world's often overlooked potential.

Lady's public debut fulfilled the hype. A woman asked the filly to describe her dress pattern. Lady looked down at the blocks scattered atop the table; C.D., holding a crop that barely flinched, stood at her left flank. Lady nosed the blocks to turn: D O T S. "As I live!" the woman declared. She plopped clumsily into a chair and fluttered a hand fan for air. Another asked Lady the time. In the clock-less barn, the letters F I V E emerged at 4:54. "Who will lend me money?" asked a thin man with a thin mustache. B A N K.

Word sped across Chesterfield County. To prevent the curious masses from overrunning her barn, C.D. began

charging patrons 50 cents for three questions, the fee waived for children.

A *Richmond Times-Dispatch* story describing Lady's erudition reached Duke University in Durham, N.C. There, Professor Joseph Banks "J.B." Rhine read the article with interest and cabled C.D. Fonda. He asked that he and two colleagues observe Lady's unusual skills in the interests of science. C.D. agreed to a series of six one-day examinations in December 1927 and January 1928.



Foaled 100 years ago in Virginia, Lady Wonder works with her spelling blocks in this historic photo.

Then a 32-year-old prodigy, J.B. Rhine would become known as the father of modern parapsychology. With wife Louisa Rhine and William McDougall, J.B. Rhine tested Lady privately and in the company of others. During one exchange, McDougall held out a balled fist. "What have I got in my hand?" he asked. Lady responded: F O O T. He unclenched his hand and revealed a rabbit's foot.

Louisa Rhine concealed a penny and asked Lady the year it was minted. Her answer, 1 9 1 4 using number blocks, matched the coin. Toward the end of the scientists' final session, J.B. Rhine asked Lady if she knew the revolutionary telepathic treatise he was developing. She triggered the letters E S P, then halted. "I'm sorry," C.D. told the team at Lady's abbreviated response. "It's been a long day."

"No apology necessary," J.B. Rhine told her. "She answered correctly." Rhine had created the term extrasensory perception – ESP for short – as a means of explaining the powers of clairvoyance and precognition. (He would publish his landmark book *Extra-sensory Perception* in 1934.)

Their studies completed, quantified, substantiated and explained, the Rhines upended the scientific world with their 1929 paper "An Investigation of a Mind-Reading Horse." Published in *The Journal of Abnormal and Social Psychology* (Vol. 23), they concluded that Lady possessed a keen intellect and psychic abilities. She didn't correctly answer every question, the Rhines stated, but her success rate exceeded statistical coincidence. That her accuracy declined while blindfolded, or with C.D. Fonda not alongside, they attributed to a lack of environmental familiarity.

They added a footnote to their treatise: "One striking feature of the horse's behavior has not been mentioned, namely, her sleepy appearance when working well. Her head drooped, eyes nearly closed, nostrils relaxed, and she seemed quite inattentive."

She was not the world's first "gifted" horse. As the 20th century dawned, Der Kluge Hans – Clever Hans – enthralled crowds in Germany with his mathematical wizardry and word-spelling acumen. Beautiful Jim Key stood a prominent attraction at the 1904 World's Fair in St. Louis for his ability to change money and write words as instructed by William Key, a onetime slave and self-taught veterinarian who found a novel, compelling way to promote humane treatment of animals. But only Lady had received scientific scrutiny.

Although the certification of Lady's paranormal scholarship found derision among scientific peers, the researchers' conclusion only enticed a citizenry eager to sample her sensational doings.

The stock market crash of 1929 that triggered the decade-long Great Depression did nothing to deter a curious public. In the early 1930s, the Fondas raised the three-question fee to $1, the star of the show became known as Lady Wonder, and C.D. appealed to husband Clarence to devise an apparatus that would afford their phenom faster responses.

A machinist at Tredegar Iron Works, Clarence constructed a wide metal board resembling an oversized xylophone. Behind the board, Lady would nuzzle a levered key that brought the corresponding block letter or number to appear before her audience.

Her celebrity so conveyed that gamblers, shysters, wiseguys and speculators tried to tap her wisdoms for financial gain. C.D. halted those inquiries early, decrying the questioners' greed and allowing Lady Wonder only to predict major contests. The mare had foretold Gene Tunney's upset of heavily favored Jack Dempsey for the 1927 world heavyweight boxing crown, predicted FDR the 1932 president-elect before Roosevelt even had won the nomination, picked 14 World Series winners in 17 years.

Associated Press reporter Paul Duke stood among the doubters and, at his own expense, traveled to Petersburg to debunk this longstanding myth. He entered the barn a stranger, paid the dollar and took his place in line.

"What is the tool of my trade?" he asked Lady Wonder. P E N.

"What is my weekly salary?" 1 8 5 1. It was $18.15.

"Where was I born?" B E T H . . . Duke let out an audible gasp. "My dear sir," C.D. told him, "you haven't given Lady a chance to complete her answer."

"She doesn't need to," Duke responded. "We both know it's Bethlehem. Bethlehem, Pennsylvania."

Duke ponied up for three more questions, stayed to witness other exchanges, returned to the newsroom and wrote a glowing account of the equine Nostradamus there on Petersburg Pike.

And so it went. In the 1940s, a lovelorn airman on military leave turned to Lady Wonder for vital reassurance. "What's the name o' that sweet lil' gal I left back in Oklahoma?" Leon Story asked. The mare took a bit longer than usual to respond: F R A N C E S.

Story's voice quivered. "Will I get back home to her?" Y E S.

He turned teary. "Will she be waitin'?" S U R E.

Story grabbed his airman's cap, let out a whoop, sprinted toward the barn door, stopped to smooch a wrinkly faced woman on the cheek, then dashed away.

Lady Wonder attracted crowds to the home of owner C.D. Fonda.

Other insights carried greater stakes. In 1952, Lady Wonder led District Attorney Edward R. Dewing to recover the body of 4-year-old Danny Matson, who'd gone missing in West Quincy, Mass., nearly two years earlier.

John Scarne read that account in *Time* and shook his head. For too long, the mathematical whiz-turned cardsharp and acclaimed magician had thought this Lady Wonder thing one big ruse. He drove 300 miles south to glean the illusion. Scarne placed a dollar in the strongbox, faced 30-year-old Lady Wonder and fixed on C.D. Fonda. "How did I travel here?" he asked. C A R.

"Where did I come from?" N E W Y O R K.

"Actually, it was New Jersey," Scarne said, then moved to exit.

"Sir," C.D. told him, "you paid for one more question."

"I have all the answers I came for," Scarne responded.

He tried to grasp it: Some 150,000 had visited the horse over three decades, and no one saw it? No one figured it out? Especially in rural America, people knew horses, their physiology, their makeup, their way of being. The Fonda barn might have been an incubator for telepathy, he surmised, but it wasn't Lady Wonder's.

In a seven-page article in *The Amazing World* magazine, Scarne detailed the alleged deception. As a prey animal, Scarne wrote, a horse's acute flight response draws in part from expansive peripheral vision – about a 200-degree arc in each wide-set eye. Mrs. Fonda, Scarne observed, stood at an angle of 60 degrees. To onlookers, C.D.'s nuanced crop movements well behind Lady Wonder's head might have seemed insignificant, but they directed the mare to specific keys.

If Scarne indeed had solved the riddle, skeptics responded, he also posed a new one: How did C.D. Fonda know to transmit the answers to such inscrutable questions?

C.D. decried Scarne's observations and conclusions. In private, she related Lady Wonder's engine detection in 1927, how the scientifically objective Rhine team had affirmed her magic, how the horse had helped heal a nation scarred by hopelessness and economic despair. Scarne's essay brought the crowds to thin, but still they came.

In the fall of 1955, 3-year-old Ronnie Weitcamp played hide-and-seek near dusk. He and three pals entered a forest

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near their home in Crane, Ind.; Ronnie never reappeared. Even FBI involvement provided no leads 11 days later.

Frank Edwards, news director of WTTV television in Bloomington, Ind., had remembered the Danny Matson case and contacted friends in Washington, D.C., to travel to Richmond to ask Lady Wonder specific questions related to Ronnie Weitcamp's disappearance.

"They went reluctantly," Edwards wrote about the episode. "They returned bewildered."

Edwards' aides found C.D. and the graying, swayback Lady Wonder in the barn. No lines to navigate, they began the exchange.

"Why are we here?"

Lady Wonder went to work behind the keyboard, C.D. again at her side: B O Y.

"Is he alive?" N O.

"Where might he be found?" H O L E.

"In what kind of soil?" S A N D.

"Are there any relevant landmarks?" E L M.

"When will he be found?" D E C.

On Oct. 24, the case still cold, WTTV aired Lady Wonder's predictions. The broadcast earned Edwards a statewide torrent of ridicule and personal indignity.

Six weeks later, Dec. 4, deep within the tree line that hid Ronnie Weitcamp too well, searchers found the boy's leaf-covered body in a sandpit within view of a single elm tree.

For all that had happened, Lady Wonder died a celebrity at age 33. The *Richmond News Leader* used a banner headline to report the loss of the "famous mind-reading horse." She was buried at Pet Memorial Park in suburban Henrico County beneath a headstone that reads:

LADY WONDER
HORSE
FEB. 9, 1924
MAR. 19, 1957
MRS. C.D. FONDA

C.D. allowed herself time to grieve, retreated from the public eye and spent her two remaining years with husband Clarence and, eventually, a new protégé. Before she died at 72, C.D. had taught Pudgy, a Pomeranian, to play the piano. ■

Vinnie Perrone's new Loose Rein feature will appear periodically in Mid-Atlantic Thoroughbred.

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— In Memoriam —

Ernie Grecco

Ernest "Ernie" Grecco, a longtime member of the Maryland Racing Commission and an advocate for the Maryland racing and breeding industry, died Dec. 13. He was 81.

As a racing commissioner, he took a special interest in the health and well-being of backstretch workers and the status of Pimlico Race Course, where he was a regular at simulcast races. A lifelong union official, Grecco retired as the Metropolitan Baltimore AFL-CIO Council President in 2017 after 55 years. He became involved in the labor movement while working at Calvert Distilleries. He received two national awards for community service: the Joseph A. Beirne Award from the United Way of America and the Samuel Gompers Award from the American Red Cross.

Grecco is survived by his son, Gary Grecco and his wife Kelly; his daughter Nina Southan and her husband, Eric; four grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. He was predeceased by his wife, Dot.

Will O'Keefe

William F. "Will" O'Keefe, voice of countless American steeplechase meets as a race-caller and long a dedicated organizer, record-keeper and leader in the jump-racing community, died Dec. 19 after a long illness. He was 76.

Born in Charlottesville, Va., O'Keefe grew up on his family's Pine Brook Farm outside Warrenton. His parents Dr. Frank O'Keefe (an equine veterinarian) and wife Lillian "Billie" O'Keefe bred – among others – 1966 Kentucky Derby and Preakness Stakes winner Kauai King. The Maryland-bred was raised at Pine Brook and sold at Saratoga as a yearling.

DOUGLAS LEES

Will O'Keefe, then a student at Episcopal School in Alexandria, Va., watched the Derby and Preakness on television with his classmates, but saw Kauai King's defeat in the Belmont Stakes in person.

"I don't know that I was much of a good-luck charm," he said with a laugh in 2016. "We were a relatively small breeder. We had 10 mares and might have six foals a year. The mare [Sweep In] was a good old mare. She had two others that won over $100,000."

O'Keefe remembered Kauai King as a young horse on the farm.

"I was just a kid then," he said. "He had a little temperament. You can't say he wasn't a nice horse. He wasn't the easiest horse to work around. He had a little spirit, but it was all manageable. It was the highlight of my father's career breeding horses."

Whether Kauai King and the others had anything to do with it or not, O'Keefe followed his parents into racing and became an announcer somewhat by accident when, as the Casanova Hunt Point-to-Point secretary he was put in charge of finding a replacement for announcer Barney Brittle in 1979. O'Keefe recruited his father, with the assurance that he'd help identify horses and provide details.

"I realized after that first year, it'd be just as easy to do it myself," Will O'Keefe said for an article by Betsy Burke Parker for the Temple Gwathemy Steeplechase Foundation in 2020. He took the microphone the next year and did upwards of 20 point-to-points and National Steeplechase Association meets – including the renowned Maryland Hunt Cup and Virginia Gold Cup timber stakes – a year through 2022.

Beyond announcing, O'Keefe helped lead several meets including the Virginia Fall Races and Morven Park Races and in the mid-1980s founded the Central Entry Office to streamline the entry-taking process for point-to-points in the United States. Before O'Keefe's creation, each point-to-point (typically put on by volunteers from a fox-hunting club) was responsible for taking entries and coordinating race conditions. Central Entry changed all that and became an unofficial/official database for steeplechase results and achievements going back to 1970.

O'Keefe was secretary of the Virginia Point-to-Point Association and president of the Virginia Steeplechase Association, receiving the VSA's Francis Thornton Green Award in 1990 and inducted into the Virginia Steeplechase Hall of Fame in 2007 among a slew of honors in racing and beyond. In 2011, he was named the Loudoun Preservation Society's preservationist of the year and in 2019 he was presented the Monk Noland Award for service to the racing com-

munity by the Steeplechase Owners and Trainers Association and the National Steeplechase Association.

A rugby player at the University of Virginia after Episcopal, O'Keefe is survived by his wife, Kathleen. Instead of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Virginia Fall Races, P.O. Box 2, Middleburg, VA 20118.

Andrew Pons

Andrew MacNamara Pons, who managed his family's Country Life Farm in Maryland during the 1970s, died Jan. 2, following complications from cardiac arrest five days earlier. He was 70.

Born in Baltimore May 31, 1953, he was the oldest son of Joseph and Mary Jo Pons. He grew up working with horses at Country Life, the oldest Thoroughbred farm in the state, established in 1933 by Pons' grandfather, Adolphe.

Fresh out of high school, Pons began work as an assistant for Hall of Fame trainer Henry Clark at Delaware Park. Pons interrupted his own career as a trainer when called back to guide Country Life through difficult times. His equine experience included a term in the stallion division of Spendthrift Farm in Kentucky, where he met Marva Jones. The couple were married at Country Life in 1986.

With the support of family in 1991, Pons enrolled in a 28-day, in-patient treatment course at Ashley Addiction Center in Havre de Grace, Md. Thereupon, he determined to finish college and persevered through 10 years of night school to graduate with a Master of Science human services administration degree from the University of Baltimore in 2002. He would later quip, "I finished my sophomore year of college 27 years after my freshman year."

As the son of a recovering father in the Alcoholics Anonymous program, Pons faced the disease of alcoholism with wry humor: "If I'm carrying a gene for addiction, then I must also be carrying a gene for recovery." He put that gene to good use, became a counselor at Ashley, then relocated to Chestertown to live on Marva's family farm, Belle Grove, on Langford Creek in Kent County. He was named clinical director of the A.F. Whitsitt Center in Chestertown, a vital facility for those suffering from substance use disorder.

An active, outdoors life he lived right to the end. He was playing pickleball with Chestertown pals at the Y when he collapsed. He was admitted to the Mr. and Mrs. Harry W. Lunger Cardiac Intensive Care Unit at the Christiana Care Hospital, adjacent to Delaware Park Racetrack.

MAGGIE KIMMITT

"How appropriate," said brother Josh. "The Lungers owned Christiana Stable, based at Delaware Park. That's where Andrew worked for Mr. Clark, who was the first to truly recognize what a fine young horseman he was."

"I've known him since grade school," said a Bel Air AA member. "He gave up a life with horses – something he loved – to spend his life helping other alcoholics. That's a powerful statement of who he was. That's what stands out about him as a man. That's what we'll remember. That he helped others."

Pons is survived by his wife of 38 years, Marva, his stepdaughter Karianna Johnson (Tom) Brace, granddaughters Ellie and Minna; his siblings Norah Pons, Josh (Ellen) Pons, Mike (Lisa) Pons, and Alice Pons; Marva's siblings BJ Jones, Keith (Nancy) Jones, Jonathan (Beverly) Jones and Steven (Caroline) Jones. Nieces and nephews: Tess Jones, Marva Kumpf, Ben Jones, Lindsay (Matt) Diehl, Charlotte Jones, Christopher Jones, Alexander Jones, Philip (Lindsay) Pons, Elizabeth (Garrett) Forsberg, Josh (Shelby) Pons, Dave (Maggie Clough) Pons, and August (Hayley) Pons.

Remembrances of life are in the planning stages for late spring, one at Belle Grove and another at Country Life. Please consider a donation to a favorite cause of his: The Mann House, Inc., 14 Williams Street, Bel Air, MD 2014, a 501 (c) 3 non-profit recovery residence where he often attended AA meetings.

Pons will forever be remembered for his impact on the lives of others. Recalled his youngest brother Mike: "If you asked Andy how he was doing, without fail, he would remind you, 'It's a good life, ain't it?' "

Joe Servis

Former jockey and longtime racing official Joe Servis, father of Thoroughbred trainers John and Jason Servis, died Nov. 14 at age 92.

— In Memoriam —

Born in Philadelphia, Servis started a career in racing in West Virginia and was a mainstay at the track for well over 50 years. He was first a jockey, winning more than 500 races at tracks throughout the region during 11 years in the saddle. After an injury forced his retirement in 1961, the Charles Town resident took the job as East Coast manager for the Jockey's Guild. In the early 1970s he became a steward and worked mostly at Charles Town for nearly a quarter-century. After he retired in 1997, he would continue to fill in as a steward at various tracks, particularly in Pennsylvania and New Jersey. He told *Mid-Atlantic Thoroughbred* in 2001, "Guys need a break every so often and I enjoy filling in."

Servis was inducted into the Charles Town Racing Hall of Fame in the industry category in 2010, which honors those "with ties to Charles Town who have displayed superior performance or achievement in their racing careers."

While he tried to dissuade his children from the track, three of the four took the path. John has ranked as one of the Mid-Atlantic's leading trainers for decades and is known for his handling of Kentucky Derby/Preakness winner Smarty Jones. Jason conditioned multiple Grade 1 winners. Daughter Laurie is married to Grade 1-winning trainer Eddie Plesa Jr. Daughter Jodie Servis, of Bunker Hill, W.Va., doesn't work in the business, but John Servis told David Grening of the *Daily Racing Form*, "she probably watches more races than all of us."

Servis is also survived by his wife of 72 years, Dolores, as well as 10 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.

Margaret Worrall

Margaret Howard Worrall, accomplished writer, dedicated environmentalist and prominent figure in American steeplechase racing, passed away Dec. 20 with her husband Douglas at her side. She was 81.

Born and raised in Baltimore County, Md., Worrall was the daughter of Mary Katherine Sheppard Sappington and Henry Otto deFries. In her youth, she developed a love for the Maryland hunt country, an affection that would shape her life's work. After graduating as valedictorian of her class, she went on to earn her degree in English attending Randolph-Macon Woman's College. Her legacy is one of passion, dedication and contributions to the fields she loved.

Worrall's commitment to preserving the Maryland countryside was reflected in her early environmental efforts. In the 1970s, she and Doug were some of the first landowners to place their farm, Scanden, in the Maryland Environmental Trust. She continued her environmental advocacy by serving as the executive director of The Valleys Planning Council from 1991-95.

DOUGLAS LEES

She was a lifelong enthusiast and trailblazer in the world of steeplechasing and equestrian sport. In 1995, Worrall became the first female member of the Maryland Hunt Cup Committee, later serving as executive secretary from 1998 to 2006. She foxhunted, showed horses and served as the district commissioner of the Green Spring Valley Hounds Pony Club. The capstone of her horse passion came when her own horse, Von Csadek, won the 1992 Maryland Hunt Cup on her birthday – trained by her husband and ridden by their son Patrick.

Worrall produced numerous magazine articles for *Mid-Atlantic Thoroughbred* and its predecessor *Maryland Horse* and other publications. She also researched and produced eight books, including *The History of the Green Spring Valley Hunt Club*, *100 Runnings of the Maryland Hunt Cup* and *The My Lady's Manor Races, 1909-2009*. Her career included 10 years as an administrative judge on the Baltimore County Board of Appeals, Dorchester County area representative for the Maryland Environmental Trust and popular high school English teacher at Garrison Forest School.

Worrall is survived by her husband of 60 years, Douglas Geoffrey Worrall, her sisters, Zoe (Sappington) Verly and her husband Reinier, and Hilly Bell and her husband Wayne Sody, and her brothers, Courtney Sappington and his wife Carolyn Berry, Russell DeFries, Chip DeFries, and Patrick Kimo DeFries. She is the mother of Patrick Worrall and his wife Kristen and Caroline Worrall and her husband Steven Munger as well as grandmother to four grandchildren. Her brother, Michael DeFries, preceded her in death.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to The Valleys Planning Council or St. James Church.

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Trainer Cartwright left mark on Maryland racing

By Sean Clancy

Ronnie Cartwright. One of the Maryland stalwarts. A tried-and-true Maryland-based horse trainer. A lifer. Spring. Summer. Fall. Winter. Laurel. Pimlico. Timonium. Bowie. A small barn full of local runners, for local breeders. Buckingham Farm. Mea Culpa Stable. C. Oliver Goldsmith. Ryehill Farm. Wirth Brothers. Back when the Maryland backstretch was an equally stitched quilt.

Murphy . . . Hadry . . . Delp . . . Hammie . . . Leatherbury . . . Dickie . . . Mobberley . . . Voss . . . Garcia . . . Merryman . . . Murray . . . Campitelli . . . Wolfendale . . . Boniface . . . Dutrow . . . Tammaro . . . Capuano . . . Cartwright . . .

Ronald C. Cartwright died Nov. 11, 2023. He was 93. Born in Stockton, England, he rode steeplechase races before becoming a trainer in the 1960s. He was based in Maryland until he retired in 2005. His horses won almost 700 races for more than $13 million according to Equibase, which starts his tally in 1981 and credits a Ronald H. Cartwright with 61 wins in the 1976-80 seasons mainly in the region and with several crossover owners.

No matter the numbers, Ronnie Cartwright was a success. And left his mark.

"He was always very accommodating with my schedule when I was in college," said trainer Tim Keefe, who worked for Cartwright. "He was just a great guy to work for. And when I went out my own, he sent me horses from some of his big owners to train. One of them was my first stakes winner. He had a lot of good horses, and he really helped start my career as a trainer."

Mz. Zill Bear, Castelets, Miss Slewpy, Pallisser Bay and Mymet led the way, winning graded stakes for the Cartwright barn.

Mea Culpa Stable homebred Mz. Zill Bear earned $740,423 the hard way. The Maryland-bred daughter of Salutely and the Vice Regent mare Silver Mink won 15 races from 41 starts over six seasons. She won 10 stakes – including three consecutive Maryland Million Ladies – after breaking her maiden in her debut for $25,000 at Laurel Park. She split champions Hollywood Wildcat and Flawlessly in the Grade 1 Gamely at Hollywood Park in 1994.

Buckingham Farm's homebred Castelets earned $597,551 of his $614,486 for Cartwright. The Maryland-bred son of King's Bishop placed twice in three starts over hurdles for breeders Eddie and Binnie Houghton in 1983 before joining Cartwright's barn. The roan gelding wound up winning 18 races from 76 starts, including the Grade 3 Pennsylvania Governor's Cup at Penn National, the Grade 3 Riggs Handicap at Pimlico and three consecutive renewals of the Crusader at Pimlico.

Goldsmith's homebred Miss Slewpy won 14 of 26 over four seasons. The Maryland-bred won six of eight, including Laurel's Grade 3 Carousel Stakes, during her first season in 1994. Two years later, the daughter of Slewpy won the Carousel-G3 again and Ladies Handicap-G2 at Aqueduct.

Way more than a numbers' trainer, Cartwright's numbers tell his story. Nineteen times in 21 years with at least 17 winners. No year with more than 300 starters. A career 18-percent win trainer – not a year better than 22 percent, not a year worse than 12 percent. Three million-dollar seasons. Within those numbers were loyal owners who stayed the course.

For a story about the Maryland Million for *Mid-Atlantic Thoroughbred* a few years back, Cartwright took a phone call and – nudged along – started talking.

About the old days of riding jumpers. About his former pupil, Tim Keefe. The state of racing. Tomatoes. The enjoyment he found in going to the track, betting a few races, seeing old friends. He talked about his wife Jane, his stepchildren Robert, Jay and Todd, his grandchildren Cheyenne, Cole, Sarah and Sam. He talked about a couple of old dogs, like the listener knew them as well as he did.

Cartwright won a record-tying three races on the Maryland Million card in 1993, and got around to talking about that too – eventually.

"The day with three wins, the Classic with Forry Cow How, the starter race with Gayquare and the top filly race with Mz. Zill Bear," Cartwright said. "They were all standouts. Forry Cow How was one of my favorites, he was a fine horse, loads of stamina, he did everything good. Mz. Zill Bear was a lovely filly. If she stayed in Maryland, she would have won a lot more races. We went to California twice, those trips were tough. The Maryland Million races didn't take much out of her. The day was great, kept getting those big glass bowls. I had five of them on the mantelpiece. I've given all of them away except for one. It was a very pleasant day, everything went right, I was getting tired going to the winner's circle. That's a good way to get tired."

In post-race coverage, Cartwright called that Maryland Million "the biggest day in my entire career." He made the cover of *Mid-Atlantic Thoroughbred*, but surely would have preferred to see one of his horses on page one. Two years later, Mz. Zill Bear won her third Ladies – and got her cover.

Before he became a Maryland fixture, Cartwright learned about racehorses from the ground up as a teenage employee of English trainer Matt Peacock in the mid-1940s. There, Cartwright rode future English Derby winner Dante as a 2-year-old because the older lads were fighting in World War II. After his own stint in the Army, Cartwright worked for steeplechase trainer Jack Pierce and later in the Lambourn yard of Fulke Walwyn (for whom he rode a winner at Cheltenham).

Cartwright joined Walwyn on a trip to the United States in 1959, where the future Maryland trainer rode for trainer Pete Bostwick. In 1960, Cartwright won five races for Bostwick. The next year, the jockey won 13 from just 34 rides to muscle his way into the top 10 while riding for Bostwick and others. Highlights included major victories aboard Amber Diver, Barnabys Bluff and Tuscarora. Cartwright won five races at Saratoga that year, headlined by a natural hat trick Aug. 16-18 and the Lovely Night Handicap aboard Amber Diver Aug. 24. A broken leg suffered in a fall at Belmont Park in September cost Cartwright the rest of the season as Barnabys Bluff, Tuscarora and Amber Diver each made the top five by earnings.

Cartwright returned for limited mounts in 1962 and 1963, but didn't regain a spot among the leaders or mounts aboard the sport's top horses. With other jockeys, Barnabys Bluff won the 1962 championship for Bostwick and Amber Diver collected the 1963 crown for trainer Sidney Watters Jr. Cartwright rode with some of the biggest names in American jump racing – including future brother-in-law Joe Aitcheson Jr., and future training peers Jimmy Murphy and Scotty Schulhofer.

Once he became an ex-jockey, Cartwright went to work for trainers Jim Maloney (galloping champion Lamb Chop among others) and Mike Freeman. Cartwright trained Freeman's second string in New England – winning with Alfred Vanderbilt's Political Plum at Rockingham Park in August 1966. For a 1994 article, Cartwright told Jack Mann that the 4-year-old filly was in foal. In 1969, Cartwright sent out Excited to five wins at Rockingham, Suffolk Downs and Delaware Park and was on his way.

Cartwright's training reputation went long on horsemanship. Patience mattered, he told Mann, because without it "a horse can't benefit. If you don't wait, he'll make you wait."

In 1991, Cartwright won five Maryland stakes with five horses. The last, Goldsmith homebred Mymet, thrived in winter weather and landed the Carousel Stakes-G3 at Laurel in mid-December. Her trainer explained it to writer Vinnie Perrone, then with the *Washington Post*.

"In the summertime, she loses a lot of weight because she sweats so much," Cartwright said then. "It's difficult to train her. You can hold a bucket underneath her in the summertime and fill it with the sweat that drips off her."

Cartwright wasn't the only trainer capable of deducing such a trait, but he made it work for him. And the horse. ❧

Additional reporting by Joe Clancy.

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Maryland-bred Stakes Winners

Tocayo leads all the way in Dania Beach upset

Coglianese Photo

The first Maryland-bred stakes winner of 2024 found success in Florida, as Tocayo turned in a front-running tour de force in the $125,000 Dania Beach Stakes for 3-year-olds over Gulfstream Park's turf course Jan. 6.

Tocayo made his stakes debut in his prior start, Gulfstream's 7½-furlong Pulpit Dec. 9. That day, he pressed the pace through early fractions of :22.90 and :45.91 and was in contention late before giving way and finishing eighth. Undeterred, he pressed on to the 1-mile Dania Beach and became the lone speed on paper after some scratches.

Going off at nearly 14-1 in the six-horse field, he was sent to the lead out of the gate and got away with a first quarter in :25.32 and an opening half in :50.08.

Rounding the final turn, Tocayo maintained a comfortable advantage and held off the closers, winning by 1½ lengths in 1:36.37.

Tocayo is the third Maryland-bred winner of the Dania Beach, following Mystic Love (2012) and Field Pass (2020), both state-bred champions.

The victory improved the bay colt's career record to 3-3-2 from 11 starts, for earnings of $176,465. After running at Laurel, Pimlico and Timonium, he broke his maiden at Laurel Park Oct. 12 in a $20,000 maiden claiming race, as the favorite. His next two starts were his first on turf, both at Laurel. In for a $62,500 tag Oct. 28, he was second, missing by a neck. He then tackled a first-level allowance Nov. 16 and led every step to score by a length.

Rudy Sanchez-Salomon trains Tocayo for breeder Lugamo Racing Stable. The son of Kentucky Derby-G1 winner Always Dreaming is out of the Ghostzapper mare Spooky Tooth, who won once in eight starts and earned $22,600. Tocayo's third dam, the unraced Admiringly (Maria's Mon), is a half-sister to 2003 Breeders' Cup Distaff-G1 winner Adoration.

Spooky Tooth has produced one other foal of racing age. Her first, California Ghost (California Chrome), is a winner in 13 starts. Her most recent reported foal is an unnamed 2-year-old colt by Classic Empire.

Foundation receives 2024 MHIB grant

The Maryland Horse Industry Board's annual grants were announced Jan. 4, with $30,000 awarded to 35 equine organizations and operations in various disciplines across the state. The Maryland Horse Foundation will receive a $2,000 grant for equipment and technology to develop a future repository of oral Maryland horse history.

Funding for these grants and the MHIB is provided by the Maryland Feed Fund, which collects $6 on every ton of horse feed sold in the state. Since the fund was established in 2002, the board has awarded in excess of $650,000 in grants to more than 400 projects to donate items that can be used to keep riders safe and warm this winter."

"I am delighted that the Maryland Horse Industry Board is able to continue to make these grants year after year," said Maryland Department of Agriculture Secretary Kevin Atticks. "Reaching out to a cross section of as many groups as possible that represent different disciplines and geographic areas of the state, the board continues to promote our thriving horse industry."

This year's grants included funds for equine education, leadership, history and equine welfare projects, rodeo and Western riding programs, youth activities, therapeutic riding centers and other equestrian disciplines based in 15 of Maryland's 23 counties.

"Horses are a critical component of Maryland's agricultural industry. The Maryland Horse Industry Board and the Feed Fund help stimulate growth and opportunity in Maryland's equestrian community without relying on major government funding," continued Atticks.

Projects are evaluated based on their value to the industry, degree of industry promotion, size and scope of activity, financial need, potential for matching funds, benefits and overall quality of the written presentation. Grants are capped at $3,000 to award funds to as many groups as possible.

Street Lute tops Maryland-breds at 2024 Keeneland January Sale

Two-time Maryland-bred champion Street Lute was the highest-selling Maryland-bred offering at the Keeneland January horses of all ages sale Jan. 8-11 in Lexington, Ky.

The 6-year-old daughter of Street Magician, consigned by Hidden Brook as agent, sold to R. Larry Johnson for $200,000 as a broodmare prospect. Bred by Tom and Chris Bowman and their son Brooke, Street Lute was originally purchased for $10,500 at the 2019 Fasig-Tipton Midlantic Fall Yearling Sale by Jerry Robb, who trained her for Lucky 7 Stables. She enjoyed success on the track, retiring with a record of 10-3-6 from 27 starts while earning $671,530. As a 2-year-old in 2020, she won five of six starts, four stakes, including the Smart Halo and the Gin Talking against open company, and lost the Maryland Million Lassie by a neck. She was subsequently named Maryland-bred champion 2-year-old filly.

As a 3-year-old in 2021, Street Lute turned in another impressive campaign. She won four stakes, including against older runners in the Tax Free Shopping Distaff at Delaware Park, was stakes-placed in three others in her 10 starts and voted champion Maryland-bred 3-year-old filly. Twice stakes-placed last year, her

final start was a fifth-place effort in the Tax Free Shopping Distaff in September.

Street Lute is one of three winners from as many foals to race for the Midnight Lute mare Alottalute, who is also the dam of multiple stakes winner Alottahope (Editorial). The family includes millionaire Texcess.

Two other Maryland-bred broodmare prospects fetched six figures. Grade 1-placed Divine Huntress sold for $170,000 to Clearsky Farm, agent, from the Bluewater Sales consignment. Bred by the Bowmans, Rick Buckley and Joshua Dreiband, the 5-year-old daughter of Country Life Farm's Divining Rod won three times in her 10-race career, including the 2022 Miss Disco Stakes, finished second in the Acorn-G1, and earned $255,045. Her dam Thrill Seeker (by Housebuster) is a half-sister to Aggadan, a multiple stakes winner and Grade 1-placed earner of $860,406, and to the dam of multiple stakes winner Sonny Inspired, from the family of five-time stakes winner and multiple track record setter Forry Cow How.

Consigned by Taylor Made Sales Agency, Juror Number Four sold for $110,000 to SF Bloodstock. The 6-year-old daughter of Into Mischief was bred by Classic Thoroughbred XXIX and retired with a record of 5-5-4 and earnings of $283,044 from 25 starts. She was stakes-placed three times in her career, including a second to Street Lute in the 2020 Maryland Juvenile Filly Championship. Her dam Tasha's Moon, by Malibu Moon, is a half-sister to international stakes winners Consigliere and Esmeraldina.

The highest-priced Maryland-bred yearling was a filly by Bolt d'Oro out of the winning Strong Mandate mare Jennemily. Bred by Country Life Farm and Jennemily and consigned by Bluegrass Thoroughbred Services, agent, for Country Life, she sold for $120,000 to Castleton Way. Jennemily, a half-sister to stakes winner Dontmesawithme, sold for $60,000 to Country Life, in foal to Bolt d'Oro, at last January's Keeneland sale; the filly is her first foal.

Also going through the ring was three-time Maryland-bred champion Field Pass, as a racing or stallion prospect. The millionaire, a winner of 10 of 36 starts, including nine stakes wins, five graded, while racing through age 6 last year, sold for $50,000 to Ahmad Alabdullatif, agent. Bred by Mark Grier and campaigned by Three Diamonds Farm, Field Pass recorded his most recent win in the Find Stakes at Laurel Park last August. The son of Lemon Drop Kid is out of the Runaway Groom mare Only Me, whose only other foal to race is stakes-winning $566,107-earner You Must Chill.

Of the 27 Maryland-breds who went through the ring, 24 sold, with 21 selling in the ring and three post-sale. They grossed $928,000, good for an average price of $38,667 and a median of $13,500. These numbers are up from last year, when 13 Maryland-breds sold for a total of $343,200.

Winter clothing drive underway

Revamp your closet, reorganize your tack room, and repurpose your riding clothes for a good cause.

The Maryland Horse Foundation is hosting a clothing drive to collect winter clothing and riding attire that will be distributed to young equestrians in need this winter season. The clothing drive runs through the end of March.

Recommended items are new or gently used hats, gloves, scarves, pants, sweatshirts, long-sleeve shirts, tights, socks, breeches, jodhpurs, and boots. All sizes are accepted and appreciated. Items will be donated to Baltimore County-based programs that offer riding instruction to low-income students.

"Buying warm riding attire can be very costly, especially among young riders going through a growth spurt," noted Jeanne Schnell, Director of Development for the Maryland Horse Foundation. "This initiative is a great way for people to donate items that can be used to keep riders safe and warm this winter."

Unwrapped items may be dropped off inside the Maryland Horse Library and Education Center located at 321 Main Street in Reisterstown, Md. The Library and Education Center is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

For more details, contact Schnell at jeanne@marylandthoroughbred.com or (410) 252-2100, ext. 113.

What's happening at the library?

On the calendar at the Maryland Horse Library and Education Center in Reisterstown this winter:

Wednesday, Feb. 7, 5:30 p.m.—Farming and Finances: Agricultural Accounting Seminar.

Own a farm business or interested in starting one? The 2024 Howard and Sondra Bender Educational Series kicks off with a seminar on accounting for farmers. Topics covered include taxes, profitability, efficiency, and more.

Attendance is free and refreshments will be served. To reserve your spot, or to see videos of prior educational events, go to marylandhorse.com/howard-sondra-bender-educational-series/.

Monday, Feb. 26, 4 p.m. Documentary film *The Legacy of Black Horsemen.*

The library celebrates Black History Month with a showing of *The Legacy of Black Horsemen*. Produced by PBS affiliate KET in Lexington, Ky., this hour-long documentary tells the stories of the Black horsemen who shaped the sport through its embryonic period in the 19th century. The documentary uses interviews with historians, paintings, and more to capture the impact of Black horsemen on racing.

Maryland Horse LIBRARY AND EDUCATION CENTER

Visit marylandhorse.com for more information on these and other events. ❧

Book Club gains traction

The Maryland Horse Library Book Club is a great way to enjoy good reads and connect with fellow horse lovers.

The club meets on Tuesdays, approximately every three weeks, with two meetings per book. Authors of the books often attend. Meetings are conducted through Zoom and are held in conjunction with Wasabi Ventures Stables.

For updates and details, go to marylandhorse.com/book-club.

Maryland Fund Report

Bonuses paid for races run in October 2023 at Maryland tracks

Breeder bonuses

Includes the additional 10 percent Maryland-sired bonus for winners of maiden races, initiated Jan. 1 during the 2022 Laurel winter meet. That bonus is reflected in the second figure earned for the race.

Anchor and Hope Farm Inc.—Calming Storm: Oct. 1, 9th race, $2,160; Oct. 20, 8th race, $6,480. Food Foodie: Oct. 8, 10th race, $3,105; Oct. 19, 8th race, $1,080. I Have Courage: Oct. 1, 4th race, $3,240. ($16,065)

Anchor and Hope Farm Inc. and Copper Penny Stables—Angel Art: Oct. 6, 6th race, $2,430.

Victor Bahna Jr.—Flinny Tin Tin: Oct. 22, 6th race, $1,125.

Barak Farm—Fivecommatwo: Oct. 15, 2nd race, $1,575. Royal Whisper: Oct. 27, 8th race, $720. She Is Wisky: Oct. 29, 9th race, $7,290. Water Witch: Oct. 19, 3rd race, $630. ($10,215)

Barak Farm and Dinos Thoroughbreds LLC—Alottacents: Oct. 21, 6th race, $1,035.

David Baxter Sr.—Miss Harriett: Oct. 14, 6th race, $8,250.

William Bayne and Super C Racing—Burningupthedough: Oct. 15, 8th race, $1,305.

Best A Luck Farm LLC—Pickin Sea Glass: Oct. 5, 2nd race, $3,645.

Big Lick Farm—Ballyhooly: Oct. 26, 1st race, $630.

Big Lick Farm and Erin Atkiss—Lothario: Oct. 1, 3rd race, $1,980.

Richard F. Blue Jr.—Imagine It All: Oct. 14, 12th race, $1,500.

Bonita Farm—Never Done: Oct. 15, 5th race, $967.50.

Bonita Farm and Partners—Sigmund: Oct. 6, 10th race, $1,215.

Dr. and Mrs. Thomas Bowman—Chelichna: Oct. 14, 1st race, $1,500. Cynergy's Electra: Oct. 15, 5th race, $1,935. ($3,435)

Dr. and Mrs. Thomas Bowman and Dr. Brooke Bowman—Bandonarun: Oct. 6, 6th race, $7,290. Feelin So Lucky: Oct. 13, 7th race, $5,940/$1,980. ($15,210)

Dr. and Mrs. Thomas Bowman, Dr. Brooke Bowman and R. Larry Johnson—By the Sey Shore: Oct. 19, 5th race, $5,400.

Dr. and Mrs. Thomas Bowman, Quin Bowman and Rebecca Davis—Clubman: Oct. 14, 2nd race, $600.

Dr. and Mrs. Thomas Bowman, Ricky Buckley and Joshua Dreiband—Spiritual Ghost: Oct. 8, 10th race, $1,035.

Dr. and Mrs. Thomas Bowman and Rebecca Davis—Double Crown: Oct. 14, 11th race, $1,500. Shady Munni: Oct. 14, 2nd race, $1,200. ($2,700)

Dr. and Mrs. Thomas Bowman and Shawn M. Howser—Bourbon Wildcat: Oct. 13, 9th race, $1,305.

Dr. and Mrs. Thomas Bowman and R. Larry Johnson—Up Against It: Oct. 20, 5th race, $382.50.

Bowman and Higgins Stable—Armed and Ready: Oct. 12, 6th race, $1,305. Don't Tell Deren: Oct. 14, 1st race, $4,125. No Walk Inthe Park: Oct. 22, 6th race, $562.50. Super Accelerate: Oct. 28, 4th race, $2,430 ($8,422.50)

Phyllis M. Browne—Golden Heart: Oct. 14, 3rd race, $1,500.

Jerome C. Burdick—Tenax: Oct. 28, 3rd race, $585.

William Andrew Campbell—Bad Temper: Oct. 14, 4th race, $3,300.

Melissa Cantacuzene—Charming Way: Oct. 29, 6th race, $7,290.

Dennis A. Cardoza—Captain Cardo: Oct. 20, 1st race, $3,240.

Estate of Sherman Chin—Lightning Lad: Oct. 6, 10th race, $607.50; Oct. 28, 1st race, $607.50. ($1,215)

Classic Thoroughbred XXV—Moonset: Oct. 26, 6th race, $562.50.

Angela B. Coombs—Catahoula Moon: Oct. 14, 9th race, $8,250.

Cottonwood Stable LLC—Seven's Eleven: Oct. 14, 7th race, $8,250.

Country Life Farm—Ace Nine Nine: Oct. 6, 3rd race, $2,295. Response Time: Oct. 14, 10th race, $3,000. ($5,295)

Country Life Farm and Broken Trust Fund LLC—Wicked Prankster: Oct. 14, 5th race, $8,250.

Country Life Farm and Imagistic Broodmare II LLC—Divine Romance: Oct. 15, 1st race, $4,860/$1,620. ($6,480)

Country Life Farm and Missy Rules LLC—Liquidator: Oct. 27, 2nd race, $4,860.

Country Life Farm and Moonlit Malibu LLC—Esperannna: Oct. 13, 1st race, $495; Oct. 26, 5th race, $2,340. ($2,835)

Country Life Farm and Sister State LLC—Lady Ensign: Oct. 27, 5th race, $1,215.

Country Roads Ltd.—Utterly Enchanting: Oct. 14, 4th race, $1,200.

Dark Hollow Farm—Circle Home: Oct. 6, 8th race, $6,480. Free Admission: Oct. 12, 9th race, $1,305. ($7,785)

John C. Davison—Inside Stunt: Oct. 22, 4th race, $765. War Master: Oct. 15, 8th race, $3,915. ($4,680)

Designated Hitters Racing—Voodoo Mama Juju: Oct. 21, 4th race, $540.

Double NK Partnership and Dennis Jankiewicz—Disputed Notion: Oct. 19, 2nd race, $3,105.

Hassan Elamri—Golden Can: Oct. 8, 5th race, $585.

Steve R. Ferguson—Lady Charlotte: Oct. 13, 7th race, $990.

Fitzhugh LLC—Matta: Oct. 12, 8th race, $2,610.

Flying H Stables LLC—Conceptualize: Oct. 19, 6th race, $990. Peace Fire: Oct. 29, 1st race, $1,215. ($2,205)

Paul L. Fowler Jr.—Intrepid Daydream: Oct. 14, 10th race, $8,250.

Charles A. Frock—Tam Char: Oct. 14, 4th race, $600.

Robert E. Gamber—Oboy: Oct. 27, 4th race, $3,375.

Glenangus Farm LLC—R B's Big Moment: Oct. 5, 3rd race, $562.50. Tortola: Oct. 27, 6th race, $562.50. ($1,125)

Fred A. Greene Jr., Deborah Greene and Hamilton Smith—Luna Belle: Oct. 14, 10th race, $1,500.

Greycross Stable LLC—Bay Street: Oct. 29, 7th race, $2,340.

Richard J. Hackerman—Krone: Oct. 21, 3rd race, $1,980.

Maria M. Haire—Neolithica: Oct. 29, 2nd race, $3,915.
Michael J. Harrison DVM—Cluck Cluck: Oct. 21, 2nd race, $1,620. Jack's Legend: Oct. 14, 5th race, $1,500. Sunny Sunshine: Oct. 29, 2nd race, $652.50. ($3,772.50)
Highclere and Five Hellions Farm—Free Square: Oct. 6, 7th race, $1,170.
Michael and Debbie Horning—Cut From Class: Oct. 6, 8th race, $1,080.
Ann B. Jackson—Brzina: Oct. 6, 9th race, $2,430.
Jagger Inc.—Berks: Oct. 13, 5th race, $5,400. Speedyness: Oct. 29, 8th race, $7,290. ($12,690)
Jagger Inc. and Pete Mattson—Rubys Flash: Oct. 5, 10th race, $1,125; Oct. 27, 6th race, $1,125. ($2,250)
Jagger Inc. and Super C Racing Inc.—Derbyness: Oct. 1, 7th race, $7,020. Goldieness: Oct. 27, 2nd race, $1,620. ($8,640)
Edwin C. and Janice J. Jenkins—Prins Fire: Oct. 19, 2nd race, $517.50.
R. Larry Johnson—By Its Absence: Oct. 19, 2nd race, $1,035. Call Another Play: Oct. 7, 8th race, $1,215. Coringa: Oct. 26, 8th race, $2,340. Naval Empire: Oct. 14, 3rd race, $3,000. Votethemallout: Oct. 21, 6th race, $3,105. Wait for Tomorrow: Oct. 22, 6th race, $3,375. Whenigettoheaven: Oct. 14, 8th race, $1,500. ($15,570)
Karmac Stables LLC—Prado Road: Oct. 14, 9th race, $3,000.
Kelly Racing LLC—Magic in the Park: Oct. 21, 3rd race, $990.
Dr. Megan Kerford DVM and Justin J. Nixon—Sheilahs Warcloud: Oct. 14, 6th race, $3,000.
Toni M. Kirwan—Vixsinzkeltkbanshe: Oct. 12, 9th race, $652.50.
Toni M. Kirwan and Edward Hipps—Minxzluckystarfyre: Oct. 28, 10th race, $1,305.
Komlo LLC—Upsidedown Man: Oct. 20, 8th race, $1,080.
Lady Olivia at North Cliff LLC—Buckin' Dreamer: Oct. 21, 10th race, $810. Glass of Courage: Oct. 13, 3rd race, $1,980; Oct. 29, 10th race, $990. Holy Synchronicity: Oct. 14, 7th race, $1,500. ($5,280)
Carl Lanier—Box N Ben: Oct. 7, 6th race, $787.50.
Lewis Family Racing Stable—Hunter Joe: Oct. 12, 3rd race, $3,510.
Estate of Fred T. Lewis Sr. DVM—Notion of Love: Oct. 13, 3rd race, $990; Oct. 29, 10th race, $5,940/$1,980. ($8,910)
Little Man Farm—Beltane: Oct. 5, 6th race, $2,340. Tidewater: Oct. 14, 8th race, $3,000; Oct. 27, 9th race, $1,215. ($6,555)
Estate of Robert T. Manfuso—Catch the Kitten: Oct. 29, 5th race, $652.50. Imaginetheodds: Oct. 13, 2nd race, $1,620. ($2,272.50)
Robert T. Manfuso and Katharine M. Voss—Champagne Toast: Oct. 15, 4th race, $1,305.
Marathon Farm Inc.—Circle P: Oct. 15, 6th race, $5,940; Oct. 29, 8th race, $1,215 ($7,155)
Daniel E. Marconi—Bella Bettina: Oct. 28, 8th race, $2,430.
Helen C. Marshall—Big Earn: Oct. 13, 7th race, $1,980.
Maryland Mare Venture LLC—Ellie Victorina: Oct. 1, 2nd race, $3,105.
Charles C.D. McGill—Disputed Claim: Oct. 14, 2nd race, $3,300.
Elizabeth M. Merryman—Enzo: Oct. 27, 3rd race, $2,340. Mission Man: Oct. 7, 9th race, $1,215; Oct. 26, 7th race, $2,160. ($5,715)
Mikelle Farm—True Sunshine: Oct. 5, 3rd race, $3,375.
Bryan B. Minnich—King's River: Oct. 29, 8th race, $2,430.
Morgan's Ford Farm—Nicolar: Oct. 14, 1st race, $750.
Murmur Farm—Bonded: Oct. 14, 12th race, $4,125. Bondiva: Oct. 19, 6th race, $5,940/$1,980. Elusive Agent: Oct. 15, 3rd race, $630. Golden Charm: Oct. 19, 6th race, $1,980. Mister Agent: Oct. 12, 6th race, $652.50. ($15,307.50)
Audrey R. Murray—Pounding Music: Oct. 26, 5th race, $585.
Nancy Lee Farms—Police Woman: Oct. 5, 4th race, $1,215.
No Guts No Glory Farm—Cocktail Dreaming: Oct. 1, 4th race, $1,080; Oct. 21, 4th race, $3,240. Dream River: Oct. 5, 10th race, $3,375/$1,125. G's Fireball: Oct. 8, 6th race, $1,305. ($10,125)
Clarke Ohrstrom—Holey Moley: Oct. 28, 5th race, $652.50. Master Oogway: Oct. 13, 10th race, $1,305. Poggibonsi: Oct. 13, 9th race, $7,830. ($9,787.50)
A. Leonard Pineau—Crossland: Oct. 21, 7th race, $967.50. Wired In: Oct. 7, 5th race, $3,915. ($4,882.50)
Dr. and Mrs. A. Leonard Pineau—Hanalei's Houdini: Oct. 21, 8th race, $1,170.
Joel Politi—Jolly Boss: Oct. 15, 6th race, $1,980.
Vivian E. Rall—Great Idea: Oct. 26, 7th race, $1,080.
Cynthia K. Rickman—Casino Tricks: Oct. 22, 3rd race, $1,215.
Randy Ridgely and Gary Ridgely—Fun Notion: Oct. 1, 9th race, $1,080; Oct. 27, 9th race, $2,430. ($3,510)
Thomas J. and Tara L. Rooney—Here Comes Rusty: Oct. 27, 4th race, $562.50.
Timothy J. Rooney—Pietrelcina: Oct. 7, 5th race, $652.50.
William T. Shook—Street Rockin: Oct. 5, 6th race, $7,020/$2,340. ($9,360)
Franklin G. Smith Sr.—Spencerian: Oct. 5, 5th race, $3,645.
South Branch Equine LLC—Blue Hour: Oct. 7, 4th race, $562.50. Photo Copy: Oct. 13, 6th race, $1,620. ($2,182.50)
Matt Spencer and Kelly Cox—Ain't Da Beer Cold: Oct. 14, 11th race, $8,250.
James B. Steele Jr.—Hampden Lane: Oct. 5, 2nd race, $607.50.
Super C Racing Inc.—Kissedbyanangel: Oct. 14, 6th race, $1,500; Oct. 28, 6th race, $2,430. ($3,930)
Sycamore Hall Thoroughbreds LLC—Feeling Woozy: Oct. 19, 4th race, $1,305. Formal Affair: Oct. 15, 6th race, $990. Goodtimetobeirish: Oct. 26, 6th race, $3,375/$1,125. John Hall: Oct. 1, 9th race, $6,480. ($13,275)
Sycamore Hall Thoroughbreds LLC and Ellen Charles—Hardspun Reason: Oct. 26, 7th race, $6,480.
James F. Thames—Notion to Tapit: Oct. 6, 5th race, $540.
The Elkstone Group LLC—Hitch a Ride: Oct. 12, 7th race, $720. It's Viper: Oct. 19, 4th race, $2,610. Lifelovenlaughter: Oct. 6, 8th race, $2,160. Senator Kelly: Oct. 26, 6th race, $1,125. Sir Lumpalot: Oct. 28, 1st race, $1,215. The Addison Pour: Oct. 19, 7th race, $1,305. ($9,135)
Thornmar Farm LLC—Bali Hai: Oct. 1, 2nd race, $1,035. Forgotten Gift: Oct. 15, 1st race, $810. Great Call: Oct. 7, 10th race, $1,125. Tall Order: Oct. 20, 8th race, $2,160. ($5,130)
Thornmar Farm and Tim Keefe—Too Many Kisses: Oct. 29, 6th race, $2,430.
Two Legends Farm—Devil Pays in Gold: Oct. 29, 4th race, $787.50. Hazelmoor Beach: Oct. 29, 1st race, $3,645. ($4,432.50)
Maureen Wade—Honor the Truth: Oct. 7, 4th race, $1,125.
Susan Wantz—Harmonizing: Oct. 21, 2nd race, $810.
Dr. and Mrs. Bruce C. Wells—Running River: Oct. 15, 3rd race, $3,780.
Donald Clifford Wilson—Boffo Kid: Oct. 14, 12th race, $750. Thencomemorning: Oct. 22, 2nd race, $517.50. ($1,267.50)
David W. Wright—Step Ahead: Oct. 7, 10th race, $562.50.
Mrs. Frank P. Wright—Power Back: Oct. 27, 7th race, $1,170.

Stallion bonuses

BANDBOX (Box N Ben: Oct. 7, 6th race, $262.50. Forgotten Gift: Oct. 15, 1st race, $270. Pickin Sea Glass: Oct. 5, 2nd race, $1,215. Seven's Eleven: Oct. 14, 7th race, $2,750): Northview Stallion Station—$4,497.50.
BARBADOS (Hampden Lane: Oct. 5, 2nd race, $202.50): Shamrock Farm.
BLOFELD (Bonded: Oct. 14, 12th race, $1,375. Bondiva: Oct. 19, 6th race, $1,980. Charming Way: Oct. 29, 6th race, $2,430. Elusive Agent: Oct. 15, 3rd race, $210. Golden Charm: Oct. 19, 6th race, $660. Miss Harriett: Oct. 14, 6th race, $2,750. Mister Agent: Oct. 12, 6th race, $217.50): Blofeld Syndicate—$9,622.50.
BOURBON COURAGE (Bourbon Wildcat: Oct. 13, 9th race, $435. Calming Storm: Oct. 1, 9th race, $720; Oct. 20, 8th race, $2,160. Cocktail Dreaming: Oct. 1, 4th race, $360; Oct. 21, 4th race, $1,080. Double Crown: Oct. 14, 11th race, $500. G's Fireball: Oct. 8, 6th race, $435. Glass of Courage: Oct. 13, 3rd race, $660; Oct. 29, 10th race, $330. I Have Courage: Oct. 1, 4th race, $1,080. Senator Kelly: Oct. 26, 6th race, $375. Sunny Sunshine: Oct. 29, 2nd race, $217.50): Bourbon Courage Syndicate—$8,352.50.
DESPITE THE ODDS (Up Against It: Oct. 20, 5th race, $127.50. Utterly Enchanting: Oct. 14, 4th race, $400): R. Larry Johnson—$527.50.
DIVINING ROD (Divine Romance: Oct. 15, 1st race, $1,620. Liquidator: Oct. 27, 2nd race, $1,620. Water Witch: Oct. 19, 3rd race, $210): Divining Rod Syndicate—$3,450.
DORTMUND (Never Done: Oct. 15, 5th race, $322.50. Sigmund: Oct. 6, 10th race, $405): Kaleem S. Shah—$727.50
FIRST MONDAYS (Tortola: Oct. 27, 6th race, $187.50): First Mondays Partnership.
FREEDOM CHILD (Ain't Da Beer Cold: Oct. 14, 11th race, $2,750. Free Square: Oct. 6, 7th race, $390): Freedom Child Syndicate—$3,140.
FRIESAN FIRE (Boffo Kid: Oct. 14, 12th race, $250. Burningupthedough: Oct. 15, 8th race, $435. Peace Fire: Oct. 29, 1st race, $405. Prins Fire: Oct. 19, 2nd race, $172.50. Shady Munni: Oct. 14, 2nd race, $400. Thencomemorning: Oct. 22, 2nd race, $172.50): Friesan Fire Syndicate—$1,835.
GOLDEN LAD (Bali Hai: Oct. 1, 2nd race, $345. Casino Tricks: Oct. 22, 3rd race, $405. Catahoula Moon: Oct. 14, 9th race, $2,750. Disputed Claim: Oct. 14, 2nd race, $1,100. Golden Can: Oct. 8, 5th race, $195. Golden Heart: Oct. 14, 3rd race, $500. Goldieness: Oct. 27, 2nd race, $540. Kissedbyanangel: Oct. 14, 6th race, $500; Oct. 28, 6th race, $810. Prado Road: Oct. 14, 9th race, $1,000): Golden Lad Syndicate—$8,145.
GREAT NOTION (Brzina: Oct. 6, 9th race, $810. Disputed Notion: Oct. 19, 2nd race, $1,035. Enzo: Oct. 27, 3rd race, $780. Fun Notion: Oct. 1, 9th race, $360; Oct. 27, 9th race, $810. Great Call: Oct. 7, 10th race, $375. Great Idea: Oct. 26, 7th race, $360. Jack's Legend: Oct. 14, 5th race, $500. Lady Charlotte: Oct. 13, 7th race, $330. Luna Belle: Oct. 14, 10th race, $500. Notion of Love: Oct. 13, 3rd race, $330; Oct. 29, 10th race, $1,980. Notion to Tapit: Oct. 6, 5th race, $180. Speedyness: Oct. 29, 8th race, $2,430. Tam Char: Oct. 14, 4th race, $200. Tenax: Oct. 28, 3rd race, $195. Upsidedown Man: Oct. 20, 8th race, $360): Great Notion Syndicate—$11,535.
HANGOVER KID (Pounding Music: Oct. 26, 5th race, $195): Hangover Kid Syndicate.
HOLY BOSS (Crossland: Oct. 21, 7th race, $322.50. Holey Moley: Oct. 28, 5th race, $217.50. Holy Synchronicity: Oct. 14, 7th race, $500. Jolly Boss: Oct. 15, 6th race, $660. Mission Man: Oct. 7, 9th race, $405; Oct. 26, 7th race, $720. Poggibonsi: Oct. 13, 9th race, $2,610): Holy Boss Syndicate—$5,435.
IMAGINING (Angel Art: Oct. 6, 6th race, $810. Buckin' Dreamer: Oct. 21, 10th race, $270. Hazelmoor Beach: Oct. 29, 1st race, $1,215. Imagine It All: Oct. 14, 12th race, $500. Imaginetheodds: Oct. 13, 2nd race, $540. Photo Copy: Oct. 13, 6th race, $540): Imagining Syndicate—$3,875.
IRISH WAR CRY (Feeling Woozy: Oct. 19, 4th race, $435. Fivecommatwo: Oct. 15, 2nd race, $525. Goodtimetobeirish: Oct. 26, 6th race, $1,125. King's River: Oct. 29, 8th race, $810. Spencerian: Oct. 5, 5th race, $1,215. Vixsinzkeltkbanshe: Oct. 12, 9th race, $217.50): Northview Stallion Station Inc.—$4,327.50.
LONG RIVER (Dream River: Oct. 5, 10th race, $1,125. Food Foodie: Oct. 8, 10th race, $1,035; Oct. 19, 8th race, $360. Running River: Oct. 15, 3rd race, $1,260. Step Ahead: Oct. 7, 10th race, $187.50): Long River Syndicate—$3,967.50.
MADEFROMLUCKY (Cynergy's Electra: Oct. 15, 5th race, $645. Feelin So Lucky: Oct. 13, 7th race, $1,980. Minxzluckystarfyre: Oct. 28, 10th race, $435. Sheilahs Warcloud: Oct. 14, 6th race, $1,000): Madefromlucky Syndicate—$4,060.
MOSLER (Bay Street: Oct. 29, 7th race, $780. Esperannna: Oct. 13, 1st race, $165; Oct. 26, 5th race, $780. Response Time: Oct. 14, 10th race, $1,000. Wicked Prankster: Oct. 14, 5th race, $2,750): Mosler Syndicate—$5,475.
NOT FOR LOVE (Clubman: Oct. 14, 2nd race, $200): Not For Love Syndicate.
OUTFLANKER (Beltane: Oct. 5, 6th race, $780. Tidewater: Oct. 14, 8th race, $1,000; Oct. 27, 9th race, $405): Outflanker Syndicate—$2,185.
SEVILLE (GER) (Chelichna: Oct. 14, 1st race, $500): Seville Syndicate.
STREET MAGICIAN (By the Sey Shore: Oct. 19, 5th race, $1,800. Magic in the Park: Oct. 21, 3rd race, $330. Street Rockin: Oct. 5, 6th race, $2,340. Whenigettoheaven: Oct. 14, 8th race, $500): R. Larry Johnson—$4,970.
SUPER NINETY NINE (Ace Nine Nine: Oct. 6, 3rd race, $765. Bad Temper: Oct. 14, 4th race, $1,100): Country Life Farm—$1,865.

Maryland-bred top earners in 2023

(through December 31)

1. Intrepid Daydream	$272,350	11. Holy Synchronicity	$168,060
2. Double Crown	266,620	12. Easy Action	166,760
3. Seven's Eleven	249,230	13. I'm Gittin There	156,630
4. Response Time	242,260	14. Fille d'Esprit	155,810
5. Liquidator	229,410	15. It's Viper	155,510
6. Berks	215,030	16. Kissed by Fire	154,600
7. Award Wanted	202,500	17. Clubman	152,890
8. Al Loves Josie	192,343	18. My Flicker	150,663
9. Poggibonsi	186,380	19. All Threes	150,545
10. Eastern Bay	174,855	20. Princess Kokachin	147,660

THE THOROUGHBRED BREEDERS' ASSOCIATION OF NEW JERSEY NEWSLETTER

- News, views and insights that matter to breeders, owners and racing industry professionals - **February 2024** -

In This Issue

Taylor Palmer Jr. receives 2024 Spirit of the Horse Award

The Rutgers Equine Science Center Horse Management Seminars

2023 New Jersey-bred stakes winners

TBANJ Membership Application

Thoroughbred Breeders' Association of New Jersey

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Taylor Palmer Jr. receives 2024 Spirit of the Horse Award

The Rutgers Equine Science Center presented Taylor Palmer Jr. with the 2024 Spirit of the Horse award for his decades of service to the New Jersey equine industry. The award was presented to Palmer during the Rutgers Equine Science Center's 2023 "Evening of Science & Celebration," sponsored by Mid-Atlantic Equine Medical Center.

"When one thinks of the history of Standardbred harness racehorse breeding in the State of New Jersey, the name Taylor Palmer is always top of the mind for his vast contribution not only to the racehorse breeding industry but to the equine industry as a whole," said Dr. Amy Butewicz as she read parts of her nomination letter to the crowd.

Palmer gained recognition through the ownership and operation of "his grand, meticulously maintained" Boxwood Farm, located in historic Englishtown in the heart of Monmouth County horse country.

Over decades, Palmer focused on the fine details of harness racehorse breeding which embraced quality over quantity with what has been described as "some of the finest of yearlings" sold at the Lexington Selected Sale in Kentucky, and Harrisburg Black Book Sale in Pennsylvania.

Palmer has held a variety of leadership roles and continues to remain active in the Standardbred Breeders & Owners Association of New Jersey (SBOANJ). A strong supporter of connecting the equine industry with educational and research initiatives, Palmer was the founding Chair of the Rutgers University Board for Equine Advancement (RUBEA) and continues to hold Chair Emeritus status on RUBEA. This board of elected members assists the Rutgers Equine Science Center in its decisions regarding its equine teaching, research, and outreach; and promotes and supports these activities through fund-raising and advocacy efforts.

Palmer has also held positions on the Monmouth County Board of Agriculture (MCBOA), and in 2022 he was honored with the MCBOA Lifetime Achievement Award. He has also embraced the state initiative of Farmland Preservation, which included placing his very own Boxwood Farm into preservation status to ensure the land would remain free of future development.

"The 'Spirit of the Horse' award recognizes individuals whose lives have been profoundly changed because of their involvement with horses and who have acknowledged the impact by giving back to the horse industry," said Dr. Karyn Malinowski, Founding Director of the Rutgers Equine Science Center.

"There is no other person that I can think of that has steadfastly spent decades fighting for, building, and preserving the equine industry in New Jersey. Taylor raised some of the finest mares and yearlings, dedicated his time to the agricultural community, and even allowed us to conduct groundbreaking research into weaning stress on his farm. Horses and the equine industry have certainly changed his life, but more importantly, he has profoundly changed the course of the New Jersey equine industry for the betterment of us all."

The Rutgers Equine Science Center Horse Management Seminars

The Rutgers Equine Science Center is bringing back the LIVE version of the Horse Management Seminars! However, due to popular demand there will also be a virtual version with a mixture of the same and different talks from the live version. The LIVE Horse Management Seminar will take place at the Cook Campus Center on the Rutgers' Cook Campus in New Brunswick Feb. 3 from 8:30 am to 3:30 pm. Talks will be a mixture of those most requested topics from the past three years of virtual seminars and will include senior horse nutrition and veterinary care, controlling and dealing with parasites and ticks, emergency management, hoof and leg care. A flyer with registration information will be ready soon, but the online registration website is located at: https://go.rutgers.edu/2024HMSLiveReg.

The virtual seminars will be over the course of three Tuesday evenings in February (13th, 20th and 27th) between 6:30 pm and 8:30 pm. These seminars are broken into topic areas with two speakers each evening. Pasture Management (Feb. 13) with Rutgers' Weed Specialist Dr. Matt Elmore speaking on "Managing Weeds in Horse Pastures", followed by Dr. Robert Coleman, Equine Specialist from the University of Kentucky, speaking on "Equipment for Small Horse Farm Pasture Management".

Senior Horse Care will be the focus on Feb. 20, with talks from nutritionist Dr. Nettie Liburt on "Feeding the Senior Horse", and "Veterinary Care for the Geriatric Horse" presented by Mountain Pointe Equine's Dr. Jessica Martin.

The final evening of webinars (Feb. 27) will focus on Health and Welfare, with a talk on "Parasites and Ticks in your Horse," from Penn State's Equine Extension Specialist Dr. Danielle Smarsh, and "Evaluating Pain in your Horse" by Oklahoma State's Equine Extension Specialist Dr. Kris Hiney.

The Virtual Horse Management Seminar Webinar series is free, but registration is required. To do so please go to: https://go.rutgers.edu/2024VirtualHMSReg.

2023 New Jersey-bred stakes winners

EQUI-PHOTO, INC. (2)

BOOK'EM DANNO
2023 Earnings: $230,625
Winner of the Smoke Glacken Stakes, Futurity Stakes
Bred by Gregory J. Kilka & Bright View Farm;
Owned by Atlantic Six Racing LLC; trained by Derek Ryan

MIA'S CRUSADE
2023 Earnings: $162,750
Winner of the Spruce Fir Handicap, Eleven North Handicap, Pinot Grigio Handicap
Bred by Dianne Boyken
Owned by Joseph & Gayle Ioia & Chuck Spina; trained by Chuck Spina

BEACH DAZE
2023 Earnings: $175,400; Winner of the Smart N Classy Handicap
Bred by Lenny & Beth Rera; owned by All in Racing Stables LLC & J P S Stable; trained by Farrell Mann

HE'SPUREGOLD
2023 Earnings: $131,050; Winner of the Irish War Cry Handicap
Bred by John Bowers Jr.; owned by Roseland Farm Stable; trained by Kelly J. Breen

GREAT NAVIGATOR
2023 Earnings: $162,750; Winner of the Charles J. Hesse III Handicap
Bred and owned by Holly Crest Farm; trained by Eddie Owens Jr.

IRISH BOOLUM
2023 Earnings: $69,510; Winner of the Friendly Lover Handicap
Bred and owned by Isabelle H. de Tomaso; trained by Cathal Lynch

PRECIOUS AVARY
2023 Earnings: $227,793
Winner of the Jersey Girl Handicap, Maryland Million Ladies Stakes
Bred and owned by Smith Farm & Stable; trained by Tim Shaw

SPEAKING
2023 Earnings: $111,740
Winner of John J. Reilly Handicap, New Jersey Breeders Handicap
Bred and owned by Holly Crest Farm; trained by Eddie Owens Jr.

EQUI-PHOTO, INC. (6)

THOROUGHBRED BREEDERS' ASSOCIATION OF NEW JERSEY

Membership Application

Member Information

NAME _____ SS#/FEDERAL I.D.# _____

ADDRESS _____ CITY _____

STATE _____ ZIP _____ COUNTY _____

TELEPHONE: _____ E-MAIL: _____

Membership Categories

☐ Breeder — A breeder member shall be a person who owns the required interest in a broodmare or registered stallion domiciled in New Jersey; who submits an application for membership, and pays the membership dues. A breeder member shall have voting rights.

☐ Owner — An owner member shall be a person who owns a registered New Jersey- bred; who submits an application for membership, and pays the membership dues. An owner member will not have voting rights.

☐ Associate — An associate member is a person who is interested in owning, breeding, or racing horses in the State of New Jersey or in fostering economic activity through the breeding, ownership and/or racing of horses in the State of New Jersey. An associate member will not have voting rights.

Date: _____ Signature: _____

Membership Dues

A check or money order for $100.00 must accompany this form. Spouses are encouraged to join the **TBANJ** under joint membership status. This fee would total $150.00 per couple. Each spouse must fill out a separate form to accompany the payment. Membership will be effective upon receipt and will be in force each calendar year and must be renewed annually.

THOROUGHBRED BREEDERS' ASSOCIATION OF NEW JERSEY
265 Hwy 36
Suite 1R
W. Long Branch, NJ 07764
(732) 542-8880
email: njbreds@gmail.com

North Carolina
THOROUGHBRED ASSOCIATION

February 2024

President's message

Congratulations to Bill Thompson, Art Bauer, Gerald Eckhardt, George Eckhardt and Dan Shea for their horses' victories. Also, Nancy Shuford, Beth Muirhead, and Denise Walsh must be commended for hitting the board. Cheers to all whose horses made it to the track or are in training.

I am anxious to see the new foals and developing 2-year-olds coming up. Please keep me informed and send pictures of your 2024 news. The information helps develop this newsletter and relieves the stress I'm under thinking about what to write.

In addition, we need to fill one board seat. I hope one of you will step up. The role will not require much, if any, of your time.

Thank you to all who renewed your membership. As always, your support is desperately needed and appreciated. Good luck to all, and this is the year we can finally bet on the horses.

– Rebecca

Race Review

Antenna, by Munnings out of Harkness, by Harlan's Holiday, won for breeder William B. Thompson Jr. Nov. 26 at Aqueduct. The 2-year-old dark bay filly ran 6½ furlongs in 1:18.40 on a fast track. Antenna settled in to stalk the pace, moved inside around the turn, went five-wide down the stretch, chasing the two frontrunners until the sixteenth pole and got up under strong urging to win by a neck.

My Shea D Lady, by Solomini out of Ladyberg, by Teulfesberg, won for owner Dan Shea – Shea D Boy's Stable in the $500,000 New York State Stallion Fifth Avenue Stakes Dec. 16 at Aqueduct. The 2-year-old dark bay filly ran 7 furlongs on a fast track against a full field of 12 in 1:25.91. My Shea D Lady stalked the pace, ran up on the inside of the turn, showed bravery as she squeezed through a hole along the rail, chased for a bid in the upper stretch, took the lead at the furlong marker and shock clear to win by 2½ lengths. She proved much the best in a challenging field.

Hartful Hope (NC), by Central Banker out of She's Stylish, by Posse, won for breeder Art Bauer and owners Gerald Eckhardt and George Eckhardt – Jimmer Racing Dec. 18 at Mahoning. The 3-year-old dark bay filly returned to her winning form, running 6 furlongs over a good track. She stalked the pace in third position, closed the gap nearing the stretch and took the lead while being challenged. She got up in the final furlong to win by 1½ lengths.

She also ran third at Mahoning Nov. 28, running 6 furlongs on a fast track.

Double Tough Tiger, by Tourist out of She'sa Tough Tiger, by Tiger Ridge, was second for breeder Beth Muirhead at Camarero in Puerto Rico. The 5-year-old dark bay gelding ran 6 furlongs on a fast track.

Tiz Wicked Strong, by Wicked Strong out of Tiz Kismet, by Tiznow, ran second for breeder and owner Denise Walsh – Never Better Stables at Turfway. The 3-year-old dark bay gelding ran 1 1/16 miles on an all-weather track.

Zippin Pippin, by Runhappy out of Proud Dame, by Proud Accolade, ran second for breeder Nancy Shuford at Mountaineer. The 3-year-old bay filly ran 6 furlongs on a good track.

My Shea D Lady wins the Fifth Avenue Stakes for owner Dan Shea – Shea D Boy's Stable. / Susie Raisher/Coglianese Photography

Hartful Hope, winning at Mahoning. / Bradley Conrad photo

Hitting the Board

November 25 – December 24, 2023

Date	Horse	Track	NCTA Connection	RESULTS
26-Nov	Antenna	Aqueduct	Bred by Bill Thompson	WINNER!
28-Nov	Hartful Hope (NC)	Mahoning Valley	Bred by A. Bauer, owned by G Eckhardt, G&D Eckhardt	3rd
8-Dec	Double Tough Tiger	Camarero Racetrack	Bred by Beth Muirhead	2nd
9-Dec	Tiz Wicked Strong	Turfway Park	Bred & owned by Denise Walsh	2nd
11-Dec	Zippin Pippin	Mountaineer	Bred by Nancy Shuford	2nd
16-Dec`	My Shea D Lady	Aqueduct-$500K Fifth Ave. S	Owned by Dan Shea - Shea D Boy's Stable	WINNER!
18-Dec	Hartful Hope (NC)	Mahoning Valley	Bred by A.Bauer, owned by G.Ekhardt, G&D Eckhardt	WINNER!

North Carolina Thoroughbred Association

2024 MEMBERSHIP FORM

NAME_____SPOUSE_____

FARM_____

MAILING ADDRESS_____

CITY_____STATE_____ZIP_____

E-MAIL_____

PHONE: HOME_____ CELL_____WORK_____

☐Jr. MEMBER - AGE 25 UNDER @ -0 ☐FARM @ $80.00 ☐SPONSOR @ $140.00 ☐CORPORATE SPONSOR @ $250.00

☐INDIVIDUAL @ $55.00

☐NON-PROFIT HORSE ASSOCIATIONS @ $20.00(covers cost of magazines)

Membership includes subscriptions to Mid-Atlantic Thoroughbred Magazine

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: Involvement in Thoroughbred Industry
(Please check any or all pertaining to you)

☐Breeder ☐Racing ☐ Steeplechase ☐Boarding ☐Foaling
☐Lay-ups ☐Race Training ☐Racing Fan ☐Showing ☐Show Training
☐Hunter/Jumper ☐Eventing ☐Dressage ☐Pleasure ☐Other_____

PLEASE MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO: **N.C.T.A.**
MAIL WITH COMPLETED APPLICATION TO: **Rebecca Montaldo, NCTA, P.O. Box 76., Fayetteville NC 28302**

Thank you for your support.

North Carolina Thoroughbred Association
(910) 261-7595 • www.ncthoroughbred.com • ncthoroughbred@gmail.com • P.O. Box 76, Fayetteville, NC 28302
Rebecca Montaldo**, president; **Jimmy Teal**, treasurer; Directors: **Vince Mathews, Chris Stiller

PENNSYLVANIA HORSE BREEDERS ASSOCIATION

PA NEWSLETTER

February 2024
pabred.com

SIRE POWER
added to 2024 Pennsylvania stallion roster
With breeding season fast approaching, the choices for Pennsylvania broodmare owners have expanded with five exciting new additions to the state's roster. All have solid credentials, and offer breeders the opportunity to have future runners for the rich PA-Sired, PA-Bred Stallion Series.
WARRANT
CLOUD COMPUTING

BEVERLY PARK

Bay, 2017, Munnings—Madeira Park, by Langfuhr
Standing his first season at Mountain Springs Farm, Palmyra, PA
Stud fee: Private

The winningest horse in North America in 2022, Beverly Park retires with a career record 29 victories (and 19 placings) in 64 starts, for earnings of $646,655. The durable son of top-10 sire Munnings captured 15 of 30 starts in 2022 while competing at 14 tracks around the country, from Timonium to Fair Grounds, Charles Town to Churchill Downs.

Beverly Park made at least one start a month from July 2021 through April 2023 – twice during the span he competed four times in a single month: in January 2022 – running at Oaklawn, Charles Town, Turfway Park and Laurel Park and winning twice; and November 2022 – at Charles Town, Churchill, back to Charles Town and Mahoning Valley, and again winning twice. Seven times in his career he started three times in a month. At one point he scored in eight straight.

Now 7, the solidly-built bay speedster is out of graded stakes winner and stakes producer Maderia Park from the family of millionaire and Kentucky Derby-G1 runnerup Lookin At Lee.

BUY LAND AND SEE

AVERIE LEVANTI PHOTO

Gray, 2017, Cairo Prince—Twiggles, by Maria's Mon
Standing his first season at Bonner Hill Farms, Littlestown, PA
Stud fee: $15,000 LFSN

A six-time stakes winner of $578,390, Buy Land and See has been retired by breeder/owner Joseph Imbesi after racing from 2 to 6, winning eight times and placing in seven others in 20 starts, and recording stakes wins on dirt and turf. He won back-to-back runnings of the With Anticipation Stakes over the Penn National turf course by a combined 12 1/4 lengths, and just missed the course record for the 1 1/16 miles in the 2023 running.

During a stretch of seven races from June 2022 to August 2023 he won five times, all stakes, and was named PA-Bred Champion Turf Male for his 2022 season.

The richest runner for his graded stakes-winning sire Cairo Prince (by Pioneerof the Nile), who consistently ranks among the top stallions in the nation, the 7-year-old gray is a half-brother to multiple stakes winner and graded stakes-placed Sweet Bye and Bye, an earner of $508,560. His winning half-sister, On a Star, is the dam of multiple stakes-winning juvenile and 2022 PA-Bred champion Flor de Sombra. His dam, Twiggles, is a half-sister to two stakes winners including Cara Marie, the dam of graded stakes-winning juvenile filly Girl Daddy, who won twice and was third in the 2020 Breeders' Cup Juvenile Fillies Stakes-G1 in three starts and whose first foal sold for $700,000 as a yearling at Keeneland September in 2023.

CLOUD COMPUTING

LOUISE REINAGEL PHOTO

Dark bay or Brown, 2014, Maclean's Music—Quick Temper, by A.P. Indy
Standing at Pin Oak Lane, New Freedom, PA.
Stud fee: $3,500 LFSN, $3,000 if sending two mares to any Pin Oak Lane stallions, or $2,500 for three or more mares.

Pennsylvania is home to another classic winner as Grade 1 Preakness Stakes-winning Grade 1 sire Cloud Computing has moved from Kentucky to stand his first Pennsylvania season.

A member of the first crop of the brilliant Maclean's Music (by Distorted Humor), Cloud Computing defeated champion Classic Empire and Kentucky Derby winner Always Dreaming in the Preakness, the fourth start of his career. He won his debut going six furlongs at Aqueduct that February, finished second in the Grade 3 Gotham in his second start and followed with a third in the Grade 2 Wood Memorial. In a career of eight races, he retired with earnings of $1,125,200.

Standing his first years at Spendthrift Farm, last year he ranked 15th nationally on the second-crop sires list and third among all Pennsylvania sires by progeny earnings with $2.7 million. His North American winners are led by Super Derby winner Big Data and I'm Very Busy, the latter graded stakes-placed at 2 and 3; from one crop conceived in the Southern Hemisphere while in Chile in 2019, he is represented by Group 1 winner Zajarova and three other stakes performers. His daughter My Witch Asquifar was the 2022 champion imported 2-year-old filly in Mexico and two-time Grade 1 winner.

Cloud Computing is one of five winners for the graded stakes-placed A.P. Indy mare Quick Temper. His second dam, millionaire Halo America (by Waquoit), won the Grade 1 Apple Blossom and eight other stakes, and also produced Marino Marini, a million-dollar sales yearling who became a stakes winner in Ireland and was Grade/Group 1-placed in Ireland and the U.S.

SOMELIKEITHOTBROWN

COGLIANESE PHOTO

Bay, 2016, Big Brown—Marilyn Monroan, by Tapit
Standing his first season at Cabin Creek Gettysburg, Gettysburg, PA
Stud fee: $3,500 LFSN

A graded stakes-winning millionaire son of champion and Kentucky Derby/Preakness winner Big Brown, Somelikeithotbrown won 10 of 33 starts over six seasons, registering eight stakes wins from 3 to 6, while earning $1,712,893. He scored graded turf wins in the Bernard Baruch Handicap-G2 at Saratoga, the Dinner Party Stakes-G2 while setting the current course record of 1:40.09 for 1 1/16 miles at Pimlico, and the WinStar Mint Million Stakes-G3 at Kentucky Downs, and a Grade 3 win in the Jeff Ruby Steaks over Turfway Park's main track at 3. His 12 placings, all in stakes, included thirds in the Breeders' Cup Juvenile Turf and Keeneland Turf Mile Stakes, both Grade 1.

A half-brother to stakes winner Jolting Joe, he is out of a Tapit mare from the family of Breeders' Cup Juvenile-winning champion 2-year-old Stevie Wonderboy.

WARRANT

JOE DIORIO PHOTO

Chestnut, 2018, Constitution–Whisper Number, by First Samurai
Standing his first season at Blackstone Farm, Pine Grove, PA
Stud fee: $4,000 LFSN

A graded stakes-winning Grade 1-placed millionaire by one of the nation's leading sires, Warrant stands his first season in 2024.

A 6-year-old son of classic sire Constitution (who stands the 2024 season for $110,000), Warrant was on the board in 15 of his 19 starts over three seasons, won stakes at distances ranging from 1 1/16 miles to 1 1/2 miles, raced at 10 different tracks, and earned $1,102,833. He captured the $400,000 Oklahoma Derby-G3 at 3 at Remington Park, one of six consecutive stakes wins or placings, and recorded his first stakes victory in the Texas Derby at Lone Star Park earlier in the year.

The flashy chestnut was eight times stakes-placed, five graded, including a second in the 2022 Santa Anita Handicap-G1 in which he was beaten a head by Express Train after pressing the pace between rivals throughout the 1 1/4-mile fixture. He recorded a career-high 104 Beyer Speed Figure in the impressive performance.

Out of the First Samurai mare Whisper Number, Warrant is a half-brother to graded stakes-winning sprinter and $675,975-earner Ms Locust Point. Stakes-winning second dam Santerra is also the granddam of 11-time stakes winner and $1,403,536-earner Mr. Buff. Also found in the family is Grade 1 sprinter Friendly Michelle. ■

A few words from the Executive Secretary

Fantastic news for 2024! You'll see FIVE new stallions standing in PA. You can find more information in our new 2024 Stallion & Domicile Farm Directory on our website, so take a look for this upcoming breeding season. All breeders should have received a copy by mail. Breed to a PA stallion and receive 40% in Breeder Awards, up to 40% in Owner Bonuses, eligibility for the PA-Sired, PA-Bred Series, and hundreds of Restricted Races. Wow!

The 2023 PA-Sired PA-Bred Stallion Series has concluded. Congrats to Aoife's Magic (bred by Mohns Hill Farm LLC), Notice of Action (bred by Bryan Minnick) and Jody's Ruby (bred by Gilman Hallenbeck) who finished first, second and third in total number of points for the 2023 Series. They earned their trainers $25,000, $15,000 and $10,000 respectively. The series is being expanded to include 3yos for the 2024-2025 period. For foals of 2022, the fee is now $500 until April 1. Just added will be a $50,000 breeder bonus for horses that finish first, second and third in total points for the series.

By now you should be familiar with the online registration system on our website. We are transitioning to that in 2024. If you are still using a paper registration, please make sure you forward a signed copy of the Code of Ethics, which is attached to the registration form.

All broodmare domicile forms should have already been entered online for the 2024 foaling season except for public sales and breed backs. Please submit your form when your mare enters the state. These domicile reports are MANDATORY and if not completed, your foal could be denied PA-Bred registration. As usual, please contact our office with any questions you may have.

Have a Happy and Healthy 2024! Pennsylvania is the only place to Breed & Race!

PA-Bred Fund Statistics: Top Earners

January 1 through November 30, 2023

LEADING EARNERS - TOTAL AWARDS

Breeder Name	Breeder	Stallion	Total	Breeder Name	Breeder	Stallion	Total
Uptowncharlybrown Stud LLC	$547,783	$210,284	$758,066	Wyn Oaks Farm LLC	$ 81,132	$187,860	$268,992
Warriors Reward	487,087	144,095	631,182	Arrowwood Farm Inc.	241,876	0	241,876
Glenn E. Brok LLC	343,583	129,952	473,534	William J. Solomon VMD	140,425	93,206	233,631
Steven W. Young Racing LLC	303,818	109,971	413,790	Joseph Imbesi	232,494	0	232,494
Northview Stallion Station Inc.	0	380,851	380,851	Pewter Stable	179,759	34,437	214,196
Blackstone Farm LLC	273,879	0	273,879	St. Omer's Farm	188,000	0	188,000

LEADING STALLIONS

Fund Money includes Stallion Awards only

Stallion Name	Stallion Owner / Manager	No. of Races	Award Total	Stallion Name	Stallion Owner / Manager	No. of Races	Award Total
Uptowncharlybrown	Uptowncharlybrown Stud LLC	483	$210,284	Peace and Justice	Steven W. Young Racing LLC	255	$109,971
Weigelia	Wyn Oaks Farm LLC	309	187,860	Talent Search	Glenn E. Brok LLC	112	83,524
Warrior's Reward	Warriors Reward	290	144,095	Hoppertunity	Northview Stallion Station Inc.	204	80,932
Jump Start	Northview Stallion Station Inc.	386	131,720	Eastwood	Glenn E. Brok LLC	64	36,971
Social Inclusion	Social Inclusion Partners LLC	149	117,390	Lord Shanakill	William J. Solomon VMD	104	36,312
Uncle Lino	Northview Stallion Station Inc.	277	110,910	Well Spelled	Godstone Farm LP	108	31,839

LEADING HORSES

Fund Money includes: PA-Bred Races, Breeder and Stallion Awards and PA-Bred Owner-Bonus Payments

Horse	Pedigree	Breeder	Races	Stakes	Breeder Award	Stallion Award	Bonus	Total
Notice of Action *	Hoppertunity - Be a Gem	Bryan B. Minnich	4	$ 92,000	$72,520	$17,230	$12,000	$193,750
Twisted Ride	Great Notion - Diva's Gold	Kasey K Racing Stable Tuffy LLC	6	116,400	48,624	0	13,920	178,944
Aoife's Magic *	Smarty Jones - Polarized	Mohns Hill Farm LLC	3	82,800	61,920	14,880	12,000	171,600
Disco Ebo *	Weigelia - Katarica Disco	St. Omer's Farm	5	20,000	86,464	21,616	41,760	169,840
Gordian Knot *	Social Inclusion - Mia	Joseph Imbesi	4	60,000	77,584	19,396	10,560	167,540
Talented Man *	Talent Search - Musket Mary	Michael M. Moore	5	60,000	69,507	17,377	19,648	166,532
Buy Land and See	Cairo Prince - Twiggles	Joseph Imbesi	4	134,120	25,720	0	0	159,840
Veeson *	Il Villano - Springingintherein	Chuck Russo	5	51,600	64,108	14,492	13,520	143,720
Warrior's Ransom *	Warrior's Reward - Ransom Past Due	Warriors Reward	10	8,800	75,973	18,993	38,852	142,618
Beren *	Weigelia - Silmaril	Susan C. Quick	5	29,400	54,684	13,671	28,560	126,315
Movisitor	Uncle Mo - Ristretto	Forgotten Land Investments Inc.	4	60,000	29,976	0	25,680	115,656
Neecie Marie	Cross Traffic - Lode Lady	Jon A. Marshall	5	50,400	30,408	0	27,360	108,168

**Denotes PA-sired*

SCTOBA

South Carolina

Thoroughbred Owners & Breeders Association

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2024

Racing Across the Nation

In an 11-day span between Nov. 22 and Dec. 2, five South Carolina training center graduates won stakes in four different states.

On Nov. 22, Majestic Creed earned her sixth win in 18 career starts in the Susquehanna Valley Stakes at Penn National. A 3-year-old filly taking on older runners, she stalked the leader for the opening three-quarters of a mile before exerting her dominance and pulling away from the field in the stretch to win by 7¼ lengths. Majestic Creed came up through Cary Frommer's breaking program in Aiken. This was her first stakes victory.

Post Time, also developed by Frommer, won his fifth race in six career starts when taking the City of Laurel Nov. 25, his second stakes win. Four lengths off the lead with three-eighths of a mile to go, the 3-year-old began to close the gap while four wide. He engaged the leader at the sixteenth-pole and in a determined effort finished a head in front. Post Time has accumulated earnings of $252,910.

Also that day, Honor Marie won the Kentucky Jockey Club Stakes-G2 for 2-year-olds at Churchill Downs. A former student of Travis Durr, Honor Marie was eighth and last, 10 lengths behind the leader, early on. He came six wide into the stretch, passing the field and finishing as much the best 2 lengths in front.

Two more Travis Durr Training Center graduates won stakes Dec. 2. Circle P dropped more than 10 lengths off the pace in the Maryland Juvenile Stakes for 2-year-olds at Laurel Park and with three-eighths of a mile to go he began to make his move while three wide. The gelding caught the leader with about 50 yards to go and quickly sprinted clear to win by 1¾ lengths. Circle P has finished first in two of his four starts, along with a second and third.

Hoist the Gold broke on top and never looked back in the Cigar Mile Handicap-G2 at Aqueduct. In front by a half length after the opening half-mile, Hoist the Gold, now 5, gradually increased his advantage and crossed the finish line 4½ lengths in front of the field. The $275,000 paycheck increased his lifetime earnings over the million-dollar mark, to $1,119,547.

Colonial Cup to return in 2024

The Colonial Cup, held at the Springdale Race Course in Camden, will return to the National Steeplechase Association calendar Nov. 17, 2024. First run in 1970, this Fall fixture has not been held since 2016. The Colonial Cup race was run on the Carolina Cup meet undercard for a few years.

The Colonial Cup will be run for a purse of $150,000. This was the first steeplechase race to offer a $100,000 purse in the U.S.

SCTOBA member Arch Kingsley was the winning rider in the Colonial Cup in 1999 on Ninepins (GB) and in 2000 on Romantic. He also trained the 2016 winner, Top Striker, for SCTOBA member Sue Sensor. SCTOBA member Richard Valentine saddled the 2012 winner, Demonsrative, for Mrs. George Ohrstrom.

March busy month in South Carolina

The month of March 2024 brings racing action to South Carolina. The 81st running of the Aiken Trials will take place March 16. A day filled with Thoroughbred races, mixed in with some pony races, it is considered by Aiken residents as the first day of Spring. Over the years, this has been a popular opportunity for 2-year-olds preparing for Keeneland to gain racing experience before a crowd.

The following Saturday, March 23, the Elloree Trials will return after taking 2023 off. First run in 1963 at the Elloree Training Center owned and operated by Franklin "Goree" Smith, the day is a mixture of Thoroughbred and Quarter Horse races. In the past, a crowd of about 5,000 has attended.

March 23 also marks the beginning of the 2024 National Steeplechase Association season with the running of the Aiken Spring Steeplechase.

The Aiken Steeplechase Association was first formed in 1930, and the first official race was run in Hitchcock Woods within the city limits. After a 25-year hiatus, the Aiken Steeplechase became an annual event in 1967.

On March 30, The Carolina Cup Steeplechase will be held at the Springdale Race Course in Camden. This event is currently managed by the Carolina Cup Racing Association, organized by Mrs. Marion duPont Scott in 1963. The Carolina Cup was first run in 1930 and has been held annually except during the war years 1943-45 and the pandemic year of 2020.

March in SC *continued*

SCTOBA member Arch Kingsley was the winning rider in 1998 (Master McGrath) and 2000 (Invest West). SCTOBA member Bernie Dalton rode the winner in 2015 (Diplomat). Kingsley also saddled the Carolina Cup winner Sunshine Numbers (2011) and Top Striker (2014) for SCTOBA member Sue Sensor. In 2017, Kingsley saddled the winner, Show Court (Ire), for SCTOBA member Mark Buyck. SCTOBA member Richard Valentine saddled the 2018 winner, Personal Start.

South Carolina-trained winners

Horse	*Training Center*	*Date*	*Track*	*Type of Race*
Ruby's Mission	Rentz Farm Tng Ctr	11/21/23	Finger Lakes	Allowance
MAJESTIC CREED	Aiken - Cary Frommer	11/22/23	Penn National	Susquehanna Valley S
Phabulous Phoebe	Rentz Farm Tng Ctr	11/22/23	Penn National	Maiden Special Weight
Loco	Travis Durr Tng Ctr	11/22/23	Charles Town	Maiden Special Weight
Bunny Hop	Rentz Farm Tng Ctr	11/23/23	Laurel Park	Maiden Special Weight
I Know Map	Rentz Farm Tng Ctr	11/24/23	Penn National	Maiden Special Weight
POST TIME	Aiken - Cary Frommer	11/25/23	Laurel Park	City of Laurel S
Sweet Laura	Aiken - R. Hurt	11/25/23	Delta Downs	Starter Allowance
HONOR MARIE	Travis Durr Tng Ctr	11/25/23	Churchill Downs	Kentucky Jockey Club S-G2
Fifty B M G	Travis Durr Tng Ctr	11/26/23	Woodbine	Maiden Special Weight
Abidale	Rentz Farm Tng Ctr	11/27/23	Parx Racing	Starter Allowance
Cugine	Travis Durr Tng Ctr	11/29/23	Mahoning Valley	Starter Allowance
Tudox Opportunity	Rentz Farm Tng Ctr	11/30/23	Penn National	Allowance
Jay Jay Dee	Rentz Farm Tng Ctr	11/30/23	Penn National	Allowance
Rominski	Aiken-Mason Springs	12/01/23	Laurel Park	Allowance
Point Pelee	Rentz Farm Tng Ctr	12/01/23	Penn National	Allowance
HOIST THE GOLD	Travis Durr Tng Ctr	12/02/23	Aqueduct	Cigar Mile-G2
CIRCLE P	Travis Durr Tng Ctr	12/02/23	Laurel Park	Maryland Juvenile S
Mucho Macho Girl	Travis Durr Tng Ctr	12/03/23	Fair Grounds	Allowance
Ninja Prize	Rentz Farm Tng Cte	12/04/23	Parx Racing	Starter Allowance
Bump N Run	Rentz Farm Tng Ctr	12/06/23	Parx Racing	Allowance
Wild Acclaim	Travis Durr Tng Ctr	12/07/23	Turfway Park	Maiden Special Weight
Martini Martin	Aiken - Mason Springs	12/10/23	Laurel Park	Allowance
Wagner	Travis Durr Tng Ctr	12/10/23	Woodbine	Maiden Special Weight
April Fool Andy	McCutchen Tng Ctr	12/12/23	Tampa Bay	Allowance
Irish Exit	Travis Durr Tng Ctr	12/13/23	Parx Racing	Allowance
Lawyer John	Rentz Farm Tng Ctr	12/14/23	Penn National	Maiden Special Weight
Dwelling Legacy	Rentz Farm Tng Ctr	12/16/23	Laurel Park	Maiden Special Weight
Lonesome Boy	Rentz Farm Tng Ctr	12/19/23	Parx Racing	Maiden Special Weight
Gotts Got It	Custom Care-D. Freyer	12/20/23	Laurel Park	Allowance

VIRGINIA

VIRGINIA BREEDERS' SHARE IN $1,850,000 IN BONUS AWARD MONIES IN 2023

Virginia's breeders benefitted from a continued business boom in 2023 courtesy of Historical Horse Racing (HHR) revenues at seven Rosie's Gaming Emporiums located around the state and the continued renaissance of the Colonial Downs thoroughbred meet in New Kent which is expected to grow to 40 days in 2025.

Virginia breeder's bonus monies distributed in 2023 nearly doubled that of levels from just two years ago — $1,850,000 versus $975,000 in 2021. Up until the 2022 campaign, bonus money had been paid for the win position only from races anywhere in North America. In the last two years (and moving forward) the bonus program was extended to reward not just wins, but seconds and third place finishes in any race including NSA sanctioned races. As a result, 65 different breeders earned awards in 2023 that came from 409 top-three finishes. In all, Virginia-bred horses collected 139 wins, 130 second place finishes and 138 thirds.

As Rosie's Gaming Emporiums continue to expand in the Commonwealth and more HHR terminals are placed in operation, signs point to the Breeder's Fund incentive program potentially growing even more in coming years. A new Rosie's resort hotel called The Rose is expected to open in mid-2024. The Northern Virginia venue will feature up to 1,200 HHR machines and replace the current Rosie's in that market which only has 150 terminals.

Topping the 2023 Breeders bonus leader board was Audley Farm Equine with $220,246 — from 31 individual awards. The uptick in award monies distributed has been dramatic. In 2021, the top bonus earning breeder, Morgan's Ford Farm, received $126,694. Audley's combined bonus checks that year amounted to $69,353. In this new era, Audley saw eight different horses they bred reach the winners circle in 2023 including Determined Kingdom, who had stakes scores in the Meadow Stable and Punch Line, Galilei, who crossed first in the Brookmeade Stakes, and Low Mileage, who was best in the Jamestown Stakes. All four victories took place at Colonial Downs and each produced a maximum $25,000 bonus return. In total, Audley recorded 11 wins, 12 seconds and 8 third place finishes.

Runner-up by monies earned was Morgan's Ford Farm with $133,566. Their 36 awards came from 8 wins, 16 second place finishes and 12 thirds.

Determined Kingdom, bred by Audley Farm, captures the Meadow Stable Stakes at Colonial Downs last September (Coady Photography)

Alex Joon, with $326,809 in career purse earnings, captured the Edward P. Evans Stakes and cemented a $25,000 award. The 7-year-old Flatter gelding cashed in from a trio of other bonus-earning performances at Keeneland, Oaklawn and Fair Grounds. Surya, who Morgan's Ford also owns, did not reach the winners circle in 2023 but had five award-earning trips including a second and third in allowance company at Colonial. Morgan's Ford also earned parts of 34 other awards in which they were co-breeders, which brought their total combined award tally to $251,000.

Ann Mudge Backer and Smitten Farm took third place among bonus earners with $121,923. Among their 15 awards were six wins — four from Secretariat Stakes (G2) winner Gigante — to complement four runner-up finishes and a handful of thirds. Gigante's other stakes wins were in the Woodchopper (Fair Grounds), Commonwealth Turf (Churchill) and Caesars Handicap (Horseshoe Indiana). The Backer/Smitten combo also connected with Just North at Laurel and Baytown Beaver at Mountaineer.

Mrs. C. Oliver Iselin III herself scored five rewards, but all were for impressive 6-year-old Tapiture gelding Repo Rocks who won four stakes races in 2023. A career earner of $803,371, Repo Rocks prevailed in the G3 Westchester Stakes at Belmont, the Stymie and Toboggan Stakes at Aqueduct and the Blitzen Stakes at Parx. In all, Repo Rocks provided $108,886 in bonus monies. Horses bred by the Iselin family amassed $159,297 in awards.

Daybreak Stables' scored $96,454 in awards, much coming from two horses that had stellar campaigns — Mystic Seaport and Naked and Famous. The former had six wins, including five claiming race victories in a row between August 31 and December 10. The five-pack included wins at Colonial and Delaware Park and three at Laurel. The 4-year-old daughter of Midshipman earned four other awards for second and third place finishes. The latter, a 6-year-old Upstart gelding, bagged four triumphs that included an allowance score at Colonial and three claiming wins at Aqueduct. Overall, Daybreak had 13 wins, one runner-up and six thirds.

Repo Rocks heads back to the winners circle after prevailing in the Westchester Stakes at Belmont (Adam Coglianese Photography)

Breeder Sam English II, whose year mirrored Iselin's, received three winning bonus checks courtesy of Chambeau's stakes wins in the Camptown and Tyson Gilpin/Glen Petty at Colonial, and an allowance win — also at Colonial — sandwiched between the two. In all, English's late blooming 7-year-old mare captured four bonuses in New Kent — of five he received which totaled $85,917.

Note that single bonuses in the incentive program are capped at $25,000. In 2023, there were 14 bonuses awarded at that maximum level. The Virginia Breeder's Fund is generated by a percent of every dollar wagered in Virginia via HHR, OTB and ADW betting. The Virginia Racing Commission approves how the Fund monies can be used and distributed.

VTA STALLION SEASON AUCTION SET FOR WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14

Mark your calendars for the annual VTA Stallion Season Auction on February 14. Open bidding is available that day from 10 AM - 8 PM and can be made by phone at 434-977-3716— no bids will be accepted by e-mail. Final bidding will be conducted the next day, on Thursday February 15, among the top five high bidders on each season to close the auction. Potential bidders are encouraged to pre-register and receive a bidder number prior to the start of the auction by completing and submitting an online form available at vabred.org. Note that pre-registration is optional — bidders that call in day of will receive a number at that time. .

The VTA event is an open auction and breeders from all states are welcome to bid. The resulting foals do not have to be foaled in Virginia or registered with the Virginia Breeder's Fund. All seasons will be sold on a no-guarantee basis unless otherwise noted. Select stallion seasons may be available after the auction closes for outright purchase on a first-come, first-served basis at set prices determined by the season donor and/or the VTA Stallion Season Auction Committee beginning at 11 AM on Friday, February 16.

A full list of seasons and auction details is at vabred.org.

Virginia Thoroughbred Association
Annual Stallion Season
Auction
GREAT NG SEASONS TO:
Bolt d'Oro, Candy Ride (ARG), Constitution, Hard Spun, Into Mischief, Maclean's Music, McKinzie, Nashville, Violence and many more.
February 14, 2024
10:00 AM - 8:00 PM
Check our website for auction details and the season list, which is updated daily!
Visit www.vabred.org - the best source for Virginia breeding and racing news
For more information on the Virginia Breeders Fund or Virginia Stakes Program, please contact the Virginia Thoroughbred Association at (434) 977-3716

Check out the complete list of NG seasons up for bid at vabred.org

VIRGINIA 2024 RACING SCHEDULE INCLUDES SEVEN NSA SANCTIONED JUMP MEETS & POINT-TO-POINTS

Virginia's horse racing event calendar for 2024 is set and in addition to 27 thoroughbred race dates at Colonial Downs (July 11 - September 7), includes seven spring Point-to-Point (PTP) meets along with seven National Steeplechase Association (NSA) sanctioned meets – three in spring and four in fall.

The Rappahannock PTP kicks the season off March 2 at The Hill in Boston with a rain date of the following Saturday, March 9. Additional meets in March include Warrenton Hunt PTP March 16 at the Airlie Race Course in Warrenton, the Piedmont Fox Hounds PTP March 23 at the Salem Course in Upperville and the Blue Ridge Hunt PTP March 30 at the Woodley Farm in Berryville. Heading into April, the Old Dominion Hounds Point-to-Point April 6 at the Ben Venue Farm in Ben Venue, VA is the featured meet of spring with five NSA sanctioned races on the program. A pair of Sunday gatherings close out the early season festivities — the Loudoun Hunt PTP April 21 at Morven Park in Leesburg and the Middleburg Hunt PTP April 28 at Glenwood Park.

The Virginia Equine Alliance (VEA) will again offer a popular Starter Rewards initiative. The program began in 2019 and has helped to enhance participation in the early spring race meets. The concept is straightforward— every time a Virginia-owned or Virginia-trained horse makes a start in any Point-to-Point race, the owner will receive a $200 starter reward. The bonus is designed to increase steeplechase participation at all levels, from owner-rider divisions to open hurdle and timber divisions.

"The Point-to-Point season is critical and gets horses ready for sanctioned races," said NSA Director of Racing Bill Gallo. "It provides a feeding ground and gives trainers a good gauge on what they've got. The NSA is engaged with the Point-to-Points more than ever. We had sanctioned races at the Old Dominion PTP last year and will look to do the same at the Blue Ridge Hunt this year, combining sanctioned races into a non-sanctioned race card. That aspect provides a nice synergy between the Point-to-Points and the NSA."

A trio of NSA spring jump meets will be contested on three consecutive Saturdays starting with the Middleburg Spring Races at Glenwood Park April 20, followed by the Foxfield Spring Races in Charlottesville April 27 and the Virginia Gold Cup at Great Meadow –- that features pari-mutuel wagering — on Kentucky Derby Day, May 4

Barrister leads the way in a maiden timber event at the 2023 Rappahannock Point-to-Point (Douglas Lees photo).

Virginia Thoroughbred Association

President: Amy Moore Vice-President: Wayne VanSant Treasurer: Turner Kobayashi Past President: Susan Cooney
Directors: Christina Applegate, Donna Dennehy, Janet de Teran, Alan Hutchinson, Larry Johnson, Chris Kuhn, Diane Manning, Diana McClure, Sara Miller, Patricia Ramey, Brooke Royster, Pat Shepherd, Laura Smith, Wayne Chatfield Taylor

Visit www.vabred.org–the best source for Virginia breeding and racing news
For more information on the Virginia Breeders Fund or Virginia Stakes Program, please contact the VTA.
250 West Main Street, Suite 100, Charlottesville, VA 22902 | (434) 977-3716

Virginia Breeders Fund

West Virginia
THOROUGHBRED BREEDERS ASSOCIATION
Newsletter February 2024

90 Years of an Empowered Journey

By Jeff Gilleas

"Do not complain about growing old. It is a privilege denied to many" – Mark Twain

December 2023 marked Charles Town Races' **90th Anniversary**, and since all you need to circumnavigate the barn area is a badge and a comfortable pair of walking shoes, I set out one morning to indulge in a home cooked meal at the track kitchen, and soak up a few backstretch testimonials.

Conversations there are often stimulating and highly opinionated, with the freshest topic on horseman's minds being how long can local Thoroughbred horse racing carry on?

The inaugural race date was Dec. 2, 1933, during the height of the Great Depression. Since that momentous occasion, the historic Jefferson County oval has experienced World Wars, observed a man walk on the moon, mourn the assassination of President John F. Kennedy, explore the Civil Rights Movement, contemplate Roe v. Wade, grieve the Space Shuttle Challenger disaster, celebrate the fall of the Berlin Wall, experience the horror of September 11th, and be in awe of Hurricane Katrina.

Despite these events, Charles Town remained relatively isolated and functionally operational. In the 1990s, the word Racino became the corporate catchphrase, as the merger of horse racing and casino games ignited a profitable venture for both entities. Thru the years, the union has produced graded stakes, nationwide press coverage and consistent year-round Thoroughbred action.

This unique marriage is watched over by a series of dedicated individuals, who now confront their greatest challenge, the constitutionality of federal government intervention.

◆

Director of Racing Charles McIntosh announced the **Charles Town Oaks**, currently the richest sprint race in the country for 3-year-old fillies in North America, has been upgraded to Grade 2 status. The American Graded Stakes Committee of the Thoroughbred Owners and Breeders Association downgraded more races than they upgraded in 2024, making this milestone significant in enhancing the Oaks ability to attract even higher-level runners.

McIntosh deduced that with changes coming in declining foal crop numbers, and a decrease in potential races available, this is quite an honor, and a tribute to the hard work his staff has put forth. Along with the Oaks, the Robert R. Hilton Memorial ($350,000), run on the undercard of Charles Town Classic program, now has a listed status.

◆

New Year's Resolutions are prevalent this time of year, and Chairman of the West Virginia Racing Commission, Ken Lowe, would like to urge horsemen to verbalize their appreciation to co-founder of the Breeders Classics, **Carol Holden**. Her tireless efforts in developing and maintaining the Classics have dramatically moved the needle in a positive direction for West Virginia-bred or sired horses.

Lowe recently attended the 90th anniversary celebration festivities at the track, and was passionate about Sam Huff and

Carol's place in the regional sports hierarchy of constructive phenomenon.

I think we all get so engrossed in our daily lives that we forget, that only one day, these races possess yearly implications. Thanks go out to Carol, the Board of Directors at WVBC, and the man whose mission in life is to defend and support West Virginia horse racing, Ken Lowe.

◆

Move a rock or touch a tree in Jefferson County and chances are you have disturbed a piece of history. In close proximity to the racetrack is the fertile limestone soil of O'Sullivan Farms. Founded in 1939, and located on Earle Road, it is the oldest breeding establishment in the state.

My Prankster, a 5-year-old son of Into Mischief, will stand the 2024 breeding season at O'Sullivan Farms for a stud fee of $2,500. Purchased as a yearling for $600,000, the graded winner was trained by Hall of Fame conditioner Todd Pletcher.

If you enter Earle Road from Route 51, just prior to reaching O'Sullivan Farm, you'll pass a touring sign that reads "Harewood. Erected in 1771. The home of Colonel Samuel Washington. . ." His brother, our first president George Washington, visited. General Lafayette was "entertained" there. James Madison and Dolly Payne Todd were married in the house. And during the Civil War, Confederate General Jubal Early placed his cannon near the house to create a defensive position.

◆

It was a close call, but with a strong push at the end of the year, **Fiber Sonde** again claimed the top spot in stallion earnings for West Virginia. The Beau Ridge Farm sensation's progeny accounted for just over $1.83 million.

His principal earner, for owner/trainer Cyndy McKee, was the ultra-versatile No Change. Late season heroics by Duncan Idaho gave hope for 2024 in the sprint category to trainer Jeff Runco, as the full brother to Muad'dib (Fiber Sonde—Holy Pow Wow), reeled off three consecutive imposing 4½-furlong wins.

Kudos to Casey's Legacy and KP Racing Stable as their respective barns, comprised mostly of sons and daughters of Juba, nailed down third place, a mere $49,190 behind Fiber Sonde. Railbirds are intently following the career of Juba's son, Jubawithatwist. His freakish performances are executed with an air of consummate arrogance.

Finishing second on the progeny earnings list was Taylor Mountain's late Windsor Castle.

Bulletin board notes:

Full-time or seasonal help is available at Taylor Mountain Farm and Blue Spruce Farm for the upcoming breeding season. Contact Megan Marshall and Amanda Moro, respectively.

Be a part of West Virginia's agricultural and horse racing heritage.

FAVORITE KITCHEN EXPRESSIONS DURING MY VISIT:

- This kitchen serves beverages that rule the world: tea, coffee and sodas.
- Charity starts at home, so pay your tab here!
- Tough times never last, but racetrackers do.
- We'll face the future head-on, by drawing on the experiences of the past.

West Virginia Thoroughbred Breeders Association

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Benefits of Owning a WV-Bred and/or -Sired racehorse

Some of the best incentives in the nation!

- A minimum of three accredited races are written every day at Charles Town exclusively for registered WV-bred and/or -sired horses.
- West Virginia has the only program in the country that permits horses to win state-bred races that do not count against the horse's lifetime open conditions.
- The WV Thoroughbred Development Fund distributes over $4.5 million to breeders, owners, and stallion owners of accredited WV-bred and/or -sired horses based the horse's annual earnings at Charles Town and Mountaineer Park racetracks.
- The West Virginia Breeders Classics pays out almost $1 million in purses for WV-bred and/or -sired horses. It is held annually on the second Saturday in October.
- $800,000 in purses are allocated for up to 16 WV accredited stakes races during the year.
- Supplemental Purse Awards of up to 10% of the winner's share of the purse to the owner, breeder, and/or sire owner of the accredited WV-bred and/or -sired winner.
- West Virginia offers year-round racing with approximately 300 race days per year.

Chasing
Brought to you by the Temple Gwathmey Steeplechase Foundation

The (racing) world is flat

Look to the prestigious Godolphin Flying Start program for proof: Hundreds of grads span the globe, siphoning international insider information into their local jurisdictions

By Betsy Burke Parker

Daisy Fenwick checks a lot of boxes. She's part of the prestigious and pedigreed Fenwick clan and a graduate of Cornell. She owns timber stakes-winner Cracker Factory and rides out every day of the week for two NSA trainers.

She manages the social media pages for one of the American 'chase circuit's biggest meets and and has learned every inch - backside, trackside, frontside - of the Saratoga racecourse. Fenwick won the Laura Pickett Excellence in Horsemanship Award in 2016 and earned the Johnathan Kiser Memorial Scholarship.

Even with all the experience and education, Fenwick says she's hungry for more.

And she's headed back to school.

Racing school.

Along with National Steeplechase Association's Harper McVey, Fenwick is part of the class of 2025 in the elite Godolphin Flying Start program, an intensive two-year hands-on course covering everything about racing from sales prep to foaling, from stallion selection to racetrack management.

Twelve applicants were selected from a field of 1,500 through an exhaustive process to winnow the best of the best for the program that founder and global horse racing legend Sheikh Mohammed al Maktoum says is the wave of the future to ensure the thoroughbred world continues to expand and flourish.

McVey and Fenwick joined their classmates last August in Ireland to begin what both say is the biggest opportunity of their lives. After the course, Flying Start graduates will have earned a management degree from the University of Dublin, certificate classwork from the University of Kentucky, experience handling some of the world's top mares, stallions and horses in training, and will have created an unmatched list of contacts to advance within the industry.

Godolphin Flying Start
Leading to Success

Neither Fenwick nor McVey admits to being intimidated as they prepare to tackle the course, and both are excited to get started.

They know it'll be hard – the two-year program is arduous, an intensive marriage of backstretch worker to sales pavilion exec, linking the business office to the racing office, joining pedigree analysis at its most virtual – on paper, to its most literal – on their hands and knees (and on a cot) in the early morning light in a foaling barn at some of the world's most elite thoroughbred nurseries.

The long hours of work and study, and work-study, are worth it, say program grads.

"Godolphin Flying Start has played a vital role both in my professional development and understanding of the global thoroughbred industry," said 2022 program grad George Broughton in a release. "The increasing globalization of racing is inevitable, and the course provides amazing opportunities to both see and understand the varying industries around the world."

How it happens

By all metrics, the Godolphin Flying Start application process is exhaustive. It requires a four-year degree with minimum grade requirements plus extensive industry experience (or a minimum of 10 years of management-level industry experience plus honors-level high school graduation.)

Applicants provide a cover letter, professional resume, three industry references, a video answering a provided racing question plus a hands-on horsemanship competency video.

Horsemanship can be demonstrated mounted – video clips of the applicant riding at walk, trot and canter, or competing in eventing, showing or racing, or unmounted – horse handling (tacking and longeing a horse or handling and "standing up" a mare or foal.)

From 1,500 applications each year, the Flying Start committee selects about 50 for personal interviews, with post-interview reading and assignments driving the final selection.

Twelve make the final cut.

Flying Start has quite the track record: from hundreds of program grads, 99% have been employed immediately after graduation, with 89% staying in racing.

Program director Clovagh Kavanagh explains course components are carefully curated for wide exposure. Working hands on with quality horses and successful people across breeding, racing and bloodstock gives real world experience and an ability to adapt horse care and management to climate and environment as

required, Kavanagh says.

Graduates have spread their knowledge worldwide, employed in racing in the UK, Dubai, France, Sweden, Australia, Hong Kong, Japan, Ireland, New Zealand, Singapore, Brazil, China and South Africa.

And, of course, the U.S.

Class of 2025 - Meet Daisy Fenwick

Part-owner with her grandmother Betty Fenwick of the steeplechase partnership The Hundred Acre Field (they own timber stakes-winner Cracker Factory), Daisy Fenwick was born into American steeplechasing. Her father, Peter Fenwick, and mother, Amy Fenwick, uncle Charlie, cousin Charlie III, granddad Cuppy - and more - are longtime industry insiders.

Now 23, Daisy Fenwick grew up in Reisterstown, Maryland. She was a top pony and junior race rider and "still rides a few on the flat," including Cracker Factory in a couple turf spins this spring.

She hunts with the Green Spring Valley and Mt. Carmel Hounds.

Fenwick's first hands-on steeplechase industry job was as a young teen with trainer Cyril Murphy at Still Water Farm in Reisterstown, literally directly across Geist Road from The Hundred Acre Field. This season, Fenwick has been getting on a few sets for trainers Mark Beecher and Willie Dowling near the family farm.

Fenwick graduated from the McDonaugh School in Owings Mills, Maryland and earned a BS in ag science from Cornell. She rode on the intercollegiate show and polo teams.

She worked on several Cornell vet school research projects including helping with a new tieback surgery study.

After Cornell graduation in 2022, Fenwick got a job that summer for the New York Racing Association in horsemen's relations at Saratoga, in the fall at the Breeders' Cup racing office and galloped horses for trainer Ian Wilkes.

A job for bloodstock agent Mike McMahon was the initial driver for applying for Flying Start: McMahon's sister, Kate Galvin, is a program grad, and McMahon strongly encouraged Fenwick to go for it.

Fenwick was thrilled to be selected, and said she's excited to begin. The course began in Ireland on Aug. 14. They worked through Christmas, including time at a stud farm, the Newmarket sales and the British racing school.

Students headed home for Christmas then reconvened in Lexington, Kentucky after the holidays for breeding season. They go to Australia then Dubai, with the final semester back in Ireland.

Daisy Fenwick *©Carol Fenwick*

Harper McVey *©Douglas Lees*

When asked what she intends to do with the Godolphin certificate, Fenwick laughs. "That is a good question! I'd like to end up in racing, and this course is perfect (in that we) get to see a little bit of everything involved.

"I really liked working at the racetrack – customer service and taking care of the owners and horsemen's needs might be something I'd pursue.

"I have no interest in being a trainer, but this course provides good connections, good experience and a lot more.

"I know some people go into Flying Start knowing what they want to do with it. Others do it to figure it out."

Class of 2025 - Meet Harper McVey

Harper McVey, 26, graduated from the Pratt Institute in New York in 2020 with a bachelors of fine arts degree in communications design with a focus in advertising and art. She joined the NSA three years ago as assistant to the racing director, filling an opening created when former Gallo assistant Courtney Reid left NSA to pursue a career with the Breeders Cup. McVey's father, Joe, was assistant trainer to Dr. John R.S. Fisher (father of NSA champion trainer Jack Fisher).

She was born in Delaware and raised in Elkton, Maryland and West Orange, New Jersey. A lifelong rider, McVey worked at trainer Tom Proctor's Fair Hill barn and has owned and retrained retired racehorses for after-racing careers.

"I was aware of Flying Start before I applied at the NSA, (but while) I was extremely interested in the opportunity, I felt that I needed more working experience in the thoroughbred industry to be accepted.

"As it turns out, I'm glad that I waited.

"During my two and a half years with the NSA, I learned a tremendous amount, and I have grown both personally and professionally.

"As assistant to the director of racing, I was able to manage a wide array of day-to-day operations in the racing office and experience the regulatory aspect of the thoroughbred industry in a unique and intimate way.

"I made a lot of valuable connections, including (and most importantly) Bill Gallo, who has been an invaluable mentor to me.

"He and Joe Clancy were instrumental in helping me get accepted into the Flying Start program.

"While it was my own decision to apply to the Flying Start program, Bill Gallo supported me completely and did everything in his power to help advance my career. For that, I am extremely grateful.

"Additionally, the NSA board of directors, committee members and all other staff are excited about my new opportunity as well, and it feels good to know that I have their support.

"I am not intimidated to be going to the 'best of the best' places in the thoroughbred industry – rather, I am excited to experience these new places and to learn about the industry from a global perspective, as I've only experienced racing in the United States thusfar.

"I look forward to expanding my knowledge of practices outside of those I've experienced, so that I can become a more well-rounded horseman and business professional.

"Right now, I feel like the possibilities are endless for me (with regards to my future in racing), and I have so much to explore. I can't put my finger on any particular job that I hope to get once I graduate from the program."

Like Fenwick, McVey plans to absorb as much of the industry as she can and figure out her next move afterwards.

"It is an extreme honor to be accepted to such a prestigious program. I am looking forward to all the opportunities it will bring."

— Classifieds —

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— Index to Advertisers —

STALLIONS
American Revolution 57
Barbados 13
Blofeld 5
Bourbon Courage 11
Brody's Cause 17
Cancun 33
Candygram 35
Cloud Computing 9
Dark Canyon 16
Denis of Cork 35
Eastwood 37
Fortune Ticket 53
Holy Boss 11
Juba 35
Kobe's Back 3
Long River 11
Lord Shanakill 9
My Prankster 22, 23
Redirect 33
Rimrod 65
Rombauer 51
Smarty Jones 17
Somelikeithotbrown 63
Spiritus Invictus 33
True Valour (Ire) ..... Back cover
Uptowncharlybrown 36
Wicked Strong 9
Zandon 15

OTHER ADVERTISERS
Country Life Farm ..... Inside front cover
Lane's End 49
Maryland-Bred Race Fund 4
Maryland Jockey Club 19
Maryland Thoroughbred 45
Maryland Thoroughbred Career Program 64
Northview Stallion Station ..... Inside back cover
The Mill 52
Timbercreek Farm 21
Virginia Thoroughbred Association 1, 21
WinStar Farm 59

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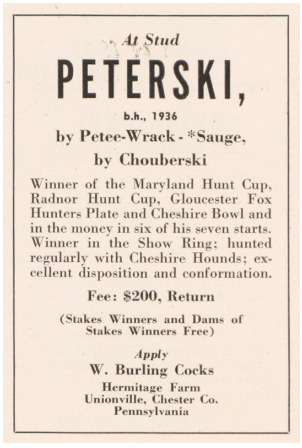
— Looking Back —

75 years ago

■ A directory of 168 Maryland Thoroughbred farms spanning 17 counties included information on owners, acreage, mares, stallions, and usage. William Woodward's Belair, near Bowie, was the largest, with 2,500 acres, although no mares or stallions were on the property; it was used for weanlings and winter quarters. Samuel Riddle's Glen Riddle in Worcester County, the second largest at 1,650 acres, was used for training and winter quarters. Sagamore, owned by Alfred Vanderbilt, kept the most mares (34). And 47 farms stood at least one stallion.

■ Peterski, who at age 12 won the 1948 Maryland Hunt Cup, retired to stud at W. Burling Cocks' Hermitage Farm in Unionville, Pa., for the 1949 season.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■ Havre de Grace's spring stakes schedule included eight races, headlined by the Chesapeake, one of the country's top early spring 3-year-old fixtures. The new Breeders' Stakes was the first of four state-bred races for 2-year-olds. The Graw's race was for colts and fillies at 4 furlongs April 27. Fillies would run at Pimlico May 13, with two more races scheduled in the fall at Laurel and Bowie.

Havre de Grace, which had the worst season of any of the Maryland tracks in 1948, was granted 25 dates for 1949, although four would be run at Pimlico in the fall.

■ The *Maryland Horse* shared an excerpt written by J. King Ross for *Expert Horseman*: "Maybe I'm just an old fogie but I cannot seem to get used to glaring errors in spelling, capitalization, and word selection in our horse magazines and articles. Now take the proud name "Thoroughbred" for instance. Over and over we find writers failing to spell this with a capital letter. Don't these writers and editors know . . . when it is used in connection with the horse *it is the proper name of a breed*? And – when I went to school proper names were always spelled with the initial letter capitalized!!! Shame on you!"

50 years ago

■ A winner of three of four starts, Thomas Nichols' homebred Jolly Johu led Maryland 3-year-olds and was a possible contender for the Kentucky Derby. Sidney Waite, manager of Nichols' Rolling Ridge Farm, explained the colt's name: "We really wanted to name him Jolly John. But we figured that name might be taken. So as a second choice we changed the 'n' in John to a 'u'. The name Jolly Johu really doesn't mean anything at all."

Bobby Adams had both of Nichols' horses of racing age in training, and wasn't sure Jolly Johu was the best when compared to stakes-placed 3-year-old Eager Native (who appeared on the magazine's cover). Both were sons of Restless Native and grandsons of the only horse Nichols purchased, a Tom Fool filly named Evilone. Jolly Johu was out of modest winner Avie (by *Gallant Man) and Eager Native was the first foal of unraced Eager Em.

Evilone was the dam of three stakes winners, including Alabama winner Tona. Avie later produced stakes winner Avum and stakes-placed Averell, both behind dozens of graded/group winners. Avie's final foal was champion and sire Lord Avie.

Jolly Johu proved better than Eager Native. Only Jolly Johu competed in the classics – he didn't make the Derby, but was fourth in the Preakness and second in the Belmont. He made 73 starts, won 10, won or placed in 21 stakes and earned $366,840.

■ Martha Green took a $1 investment of a mean, in-foal broodmare, and turned it into a success worth thousands with the resulting foal, Ten Dimes.

Green grew up in Manhattan, and distressed her parents by working with horses instead of going to college. She broke yearlings with the Schoenborn brothers in New York, moved to South Carolina, then Kentucky, before building her roots in Maryland as a trainer.

Green, who described herself as "mean," died in January 2023 at age 83. She said in a 1981 Maryland Horse *profile that, "I'm hard to get along with. There's only one way to do things, and that's my way... But I'm doing what I want to do, and that's what counts."*

■ Cleveland Skinker, breeder of 1965 Maryland-bred Horse of the Year Miss Spin at his Flamingo Farm in Brookeville, Md., died at 89. He got into racing by purchasing two racehorses for $200 in 1911: "I've spent the rest of my life trying to get even."

■ For the first time, a Maryland-bred race was worth $50,000-added as Pimlico's Jennings Handicap was increased from $30,000. The only other state-bred race with a purse of such size was the California Breeders Champion Stakes at Santa Anita.

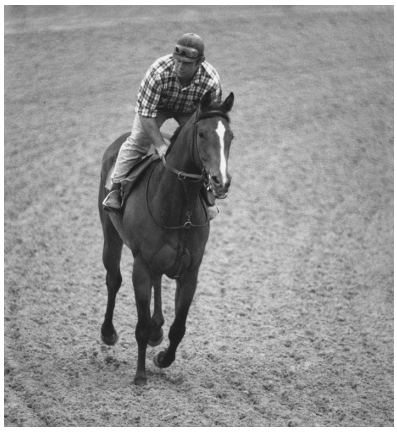
25 years ago

■ Fasig-Tipton's record-setting December mixed sale saw gross and average rise more than 30 percent. Walter Reese, who with his wife Cynthia owned and operated Timber Creek Farm in Robbinsville, N.J., led with eight purchases – all weanlings – for $366,000 on behalf of clients Noreen and Al Carpenito. Cynthia Reese noted:"It was kind of a spur-of-the-moment thing. We went there to try to buy one colt for Timber Creek. But Walter and Al talked on the phone, and with the yearling market so much stronger, Al decided to take a chance with some weanlings."

The sales-topping weanling, a $72,000 Cryptoclearance colt (stakes-placed Bakhoor), was pinhooked the next year for $300,000. Others Reese took home were future stakes winners One Eyed Joker and Love Happy.

■ "Once in a lifetime stories abound in racing," wrote Joe Clancy , spurred on by a note from ex-steeplechase jockey turned trainer and recovering alcoholic J.B. Secor, who credited recently retired multiple stakes winner D. Guilford with keeping him sober.

Owned by Jewelyne and Harold Montgomery, D. Guilford was a quirky horse with an attitude and a reputation for not doing what people wanted, while Secor was fresh out of a rehabilitation center.



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J.B. Secor gallops D. Guilford.

Racing in turf sprints, D. Guilford won at least once each season from 2 to 12, 34 wins in all, from 100 starts.

"Stories like that abound in both steeplechasing and flat racing," wrote Clancy. "It probably has something to do with the connection between horse and human, and it's too bad that connection gets lost on so many people."

■ Althea Richards' 8-year-old Punch Line was fat and happy in retirement – until 2-year-olds began going past his paddock at his breeder's farm that March. The gray Two Punch gelding returned to trainer Billy Turner and won four of five starts, including the Grade 2 Forest Hills and Fall Highweight handicaps, to push his career earnings past $950,000.

■ One of the region's most beloved performers, Weather Vane, fractured an ankle in a Pimlico workout in December. Par Four Racing Stable's durable daughter of Willard Scott had won 14 stakes, possibly a record for a 24-month period in the Mid-Atlantic, and earned $724,532. Her last win, in the Contrary Rose Stakes, came in mid-December. The 5-year-old mare's long-term prognosis was good.

She recovered and produced the first of her six foals, a Not For Love filly, in 2000. All of her foals were winners, including stakes winner and stakes producer So Vain.

■ Writers from the Mid-Atlantic starred in newspaper and magazine categories when the Eclipse Awards were announced for material published in 1998. *Baltimore Sun* racing writer Tom Keyser earned his second award in three years for outstanding newspaper writing, while Dick Jerardi, of the *Philadelphia Daily News*, received an honorable mention.

Washington, D.C., freelance writer Laura Hillenbrand won for outstanding magazine writing for an article on Seabiscuit that appeared in *American Heritage*. Vinnie Perrone earned an honorable mention for "Expanded gaming: ambush or opportunity?" that ran in *Mid-Atlantic Thoroughbred.*

10 years ago

■ Derry Meeting Farm in Chester County, Pa., sold in three parcels, none expected to continue breeding Thoroughbreds.

Purchased by Marshall Jenney in 1964 and run by his widow, Bettina, after his death in 2000, Derry Meeting bred leading sire Danzig and was the birthplace of leading sire Storm Cat. Among other greats were three-time English and Irish champion Mrs. Penny, French and English champion Selkirk, Breeders' Cup Turf-G1 winner Tikkanen, stakes winner and Grade 1 producer Mrs. Jenney, Irish classic winner Lucarno and multiple Grade/Group 1 winner Mrs. Lindsay (a great-granddaughter of Mrs. Jenney).

Said Bettina Jenney about the decision: "Marshall made his dream come true when he bought the farm in 1964, and I just tried to carry on that dream and it was wonderful doing it. I'm getting older and it's time to retire."

■ "Ladies in Waiting" offered a window into the local breeding industry. During the season that brings "optimism, hope, promise of new foals and future racehorses," the magazine caught up with a sampling of notable mares, including Shared Account, Layounne, Julie B and Jazzy Idea. "Broodmares. They're big, small, old, young, barren, maiden, grouchy, happy, bay, chestnut, gray and they're here. Ready," wrote Joe Clancy.

■ Dr. Kathy Anderson was installed as the president-elect for the American Association of Equine Practitioners for 2015. A former veterinarian for the U.S. Equestrian Team, Anderson worked at several Mid-Atlantic tracks, including Philadelphia Park, Atlantic City and Garden State Park, before moving to Maryland's Fair Hill Training Center in 1993.

■ Noble Moon made it six Edward P. Evans-breds in a row to win a graded stakes at 3 in the Grade 2 Jerome at Aqueduct. The son of Malibu Moon, representing four generations born at Evans' Spring Hill Farm in Casanova, Va., was a member of the breeder's final crop, and joined Quality Road, A Little Warm, Dominus, Blueskiesnrainbows and Code West to accomplish the feat.

With $401,070 in earnings, Noble Moon became the richest of 44 weanlings sold at the Evans dispersal at Keeneland in 2011.

Winter Wonderland

Long a summer stop on the Mid-Atlantic circuit, Delaware Park opened for its first season of winter training in 1984. New owners Bill Rickman and Billy Christmas winterized 11 barns to start, and horses and horse people navigated plenty of frosty mornings. Closed after the 1982 season, the track eyed a return under new management. Forty years later, the stable area closes in mid-December and the racing season runs from late May to early November.

Walter M. "Skip" Ball was an award-winning staff photographer for *Maryland Horse* magazine from the mid-1960s to the late 1980s. His children donated his work to the Maryland Horse Breeders Association several years ago, and the photographs are part of the Maryland Horse Library as the Skip Ball Collection. In the next stages of our archiving projects, Ball's films and slides will be digitized to preserve this gifted photographer's legacy.

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